

THE ANALYTICAL REVIEW.

FOR APRIL, 1797.

FINANCE.

ART. I. *An Appeal to the People of Great Britain, on the present alarming State of the Public Finances, and of Public Credit.* By William Morgan, F. R. S. 8vo. 87 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Debrett. 1797.

AGAIN the warning voice of Mr. Morgan is heard in the country. Not yet utterly despairing, he, a third time, attempts to arouse a supine and besotted people to a sense of their condition, in order to save the sinking state. We commend the motive; but knowing with whom he has to do, doubt of the effect.

Every production of Mr. M. is remarkable for correct and easy language, perspicuous arrangement, and happy compression; but none more so than that which now lies before us. Distinguished as a calculator inferior to none in Europe, he possesses the uncommon talent of communicating knowledge with a simplicity so inviting, that every man may derive from his labours an easy instruction.

This tract opens with a declaration, that our author intended only to have incorporated his two former works on the subject of the finances, and to have made such alterations in the statements they contain, as should have adapted them to the circumstances of the times; but he found this impossible, from the rapid progress of the public expenditure, and was obliged to compose an entire new treatise.

The work contains six sections, beside the conclusion and appendix.

The first section treats of the growing expenses and growing abuses of the war.

Notice is taken of the progress which has been made in the expenditure of the public money, and particularly without the previous consent of parliament.

A table is given (p. 7) from which it appears, that in a comparison of the expenditure of four years of war at different periods, the following statement is the astonishing result:

From 1755 to 1758 inclusive.		From 1778 to 1781 inclusive.		From 1793 to 1796 inclusive.	
With previous consent of parliament.	Without consent of parliament.	With previous consent of parliament.	Without consent of parliament.	With consent.	Without consent.
21,612,211	9,337,617	38,143,513	28,563,568	50,467,377	49,856,171
	21,612,211		38,143,513		50,467,377
£.30,949,828		£.66,707,081		£.100,323,548	
Total spent in four years.		Total spent in four years.		Total expense of four years.	

It appears, that, in the last four years, the expenditure *without* the previous consent of parliament is nearly equal to the expenditure *with* such previous consent; and, strange to tell! that, in the last year (1796), the expenditure *without* the consent of parliament previously obtained has exceeded, by many millions, the expenditure *with* such consent; for the latter is 14,952,776l. and the former 18,280,056l.

It is wisely observed by our author, and it is an observation which will apply to the minds of such as may be disposed to think the sanction of parliament, so easily obtained by any minister, a matter of slight importance; that these enormous extraordinaries, by rendering the *statements* of the expenditure extremely false, induce the nation to acquiesce in the continuance of the war, under the idea of a less serious debt being contracted.

In our author's remarks on the particulars of this dreadful expenditure, bills drawn upon the treasury, by the agents of government, meet the eye with rude and threatening projection.

P. 11.— In the year 1755, when this expensive correspondence with the treasury seems to have begun, the whole amount of the bills drawn by the governors did not exceed 850l. In the year 1756, they were 1969l. In the year 1776, they had risen to 90,909l. What they were in the last year, or 1796, may be learned from the following statement:

Bills drawn on the treasury in the year 1796, by the		
Governor of Guernsey	-	9,016
Dominica	-	59,096
Jamaica	-	4,743
Nova Scotia	-	6,184
Bahama Islands	-	20,804
St. Domingo	-	1,181,020
Corfica	-	57,764
Bermuda	-	8,421
St. Vincent's	-	8,033
Gibraltar	-	5,655
St. Kitt's, Tobago, &c.	-	4,070

£1,364,806

Nor does this sum include the whole amount of bills drawn upon the treasury; for their whole amount in the year 1796, exclusive of those drawn for wheat for the emperor, and for the prince of Conde's army, is stated (p. 14) to be 4,115,197l.

The second section, which treats of the *navy debt*, opens with stating, that government avoids giving the particulars of the navy extraordinaries, and that the parliament (the guardian of the public purse!) is satisfied with the general amount, and the millions that have been squandered in this department, without its knowledge or consent, are voted *without inquiry or animadversion*. This omission of particulars, however, our author thinks little to be lamented, if the plan be continued, which was pursued, when a friend of his commanded a vessel, the repair of which cost only, at one time, *thirty-five pounds*, and this was set down, as the commander's own eyes witnessed, at 1200l.!

Mr. M. proves, that above 16 millions have been expended in one year

year in this department, and in *that year* when the french, whose navy had been pronounced by ministerial loquacity to be annihilated, insulted our coasts with impunity.

He then severely animadverts upon the mode taken to discharge these debts incurred by the navy department, and shows the profusion to be the consequence of ignorance as criminal as gross.

Having stated particulars concerning the issuing of the navy bills, he observes,

P. 21.—‘Hence it appears, that in consequence of the very great discount at which those bills were issued, a debt of 11,714,825*l.* was created for services which, if paid for in ready money, would have cost the nation only 10,946,917*l.* But, in order to render the extravagance still more enormous, this debt has again been funded in such a manner as to increase the *capital* above three millions and a half more than it needed to have been, if the exchange into stock had been made at the several periods in which the debt was contracted. The ruinous prodigality of lord *North*’s administration, particularly in regard to the navy expenditure, has often been reprobated by the minister and his adherents, and yet, during the whole course of that administration, there is not to be found such an instance of extravagance as the present. If the amount of the capital created be compared with the value of the property actually received by the public, it will appear that the former exceeds the latter by 9,747,298*l.* or, in other words, that the navy debt has been contracted in the last year upon the same terms as if the money had been borrowed by funding in the *three per cents.* at *fifty-three and a half*, while in May last, when the greater part of this debt was incurred, those very *three per cents.* were triumphantly stated in lord *Auckland*’s pamphlet to be at *sixty-six*, and the debt itself was not allowed in that correct publication to have any existence.’

Mr. M. has given a remarkable instance of the effect of this wicked profusion on the market, and has shown, that by purchasing stores with navy bills, and then afterwards funding them in the manner adopted; for a ton of hemp, which before the war cost only 23*l.*, the sum of 120*l.* is added to the capital of the national debt.

The third section states the amount of the debt and taxes incurred by the present war.

The author here shows, that should the war end with this campaign (and, in such case, we think he has set down much too little as expenses that will attend the termination of the war) the debt incurred by the war will exceed 174 millions, and the taxes 8 millions and a half!

P. 37.—‘In the year 1791, when all the arrears of the american war were either funded or discharged, the annual interest upon the public debts amounted to 9,289,110*l.* In less than five years, therefore, the present chancellor of the exchequer will have added very nearly as much to the taxes as all the ministers that have ever afflicted this country from the revolution to the commencement of his administration.*’

* * The interest of the debt in March 1784 (when Mr. *Pitt* became chancellor of the exchequer) was only 8,045,055*l.* so that, in fact, he will, in five years, have more than *doubled* all the taxes that have been laid on the public before his administration.’

The observations which occur in the fourth section, which treats of loans in the present session of parliament, are very curious; but admit of little abbreviation.

P. 38.—‘The loans, in the first four years of the war, have been the subject of a former discussion, and therefore it will not be necessary here to extend our inquiries beyond the operations of the last year. In these the minister seems to have deserted every principle of finance which he professed either in the earlier or the latter periods of his administration. At one time it was his aim to lessen the capital rather than the interest of the debt, with the view of facilitating its redemption: at another he appears to have been more solicitous about reducing the interest than preventing an unnecessary addition to the capital. But of late both capital and interest seem to be regarded with equal indifference, and the choice of increasing either the one or the other has been left to be determined by the convenience or the avarice of the public creditor.’

In the instances given of the navy bills and the loyalty loan, our author has fully proved his strong and serious charge. The account of the terms of the loyalty loan is too curious to be omitted.

P. 44.—‘For the subscription of each 100l. the public is pledged, within two years of the conclusion of the war, either to pay in money 112l. 10s. or to fund an equivalent capital in the *three per cents*, according as it shall best suit the interest of the subscriber at that time. Supposing the war to terminate with this year, and it is hardly possible to imagine that the present system of extravagance should admit of its continuing longer, the loan will then appear to have been made on the following terms:

Sum originally paid	£.	s.
	100	0
Deduct, for prompt payment	3l.	
Ditto, for $\frac{1}{4}$ year's interest allowed on 112l. 10s.	1l. 8s.	
	—	4 8
Remains, the sum actually paid	95	12

* On this sum of 95l. 12s. the minister has engaged to pay the yearly interest of 5l. 12s. 6d. which is after the rate of 5l. 17s. 9d. *per cent.*; and, at the end of three years, he has engaged also to pay a further sum of 16l. 18s. or, which is the same thing, to increase the money originally advanced from 95l. 12s. to 112l. 10s. A present engagement to pay 16l. 18s. at the end of three years is the same with paying an annuity during that term of 5l. 7s. 3d.; and as such annuity is in consideration of 95l. 12s. the proportionate annuity for 100l. would have been 5l. 12s. 1d. Adding, therefore, this sum to 5l. 17s. 9d. it follows that the loan has been borrowed at the exorbitant interest of 11l. 9s. 10d. *per cent.* In all former transactions of this kind the public have, in some measure, been led to acquiesce in the high rate of interest at which their debts were accumulated, from the consideration that the capital of those debts was in consequence proportionably diminished; but the present loan

loan possesses the peculiar property of increasing both capital and interest in an equally extravagant degree.'

Section the 5th gives the whole amount of the national debt and interest.

Our author states, that, should the war terminate with the present campaign, the whole of the debt will exceed 434 millions; and, when all the stock which has been purchased by the commissioners is deducted, will amount to 410 millions, exclusive of the emperor's loan; which, however, there is but too little reason to exclude. The interest of this enormous sum, and the expense of the *peace establishment*, will demand a revenue of 26 millions.

Our present taxes produce only 22,651,958l.

p. 54.—'Deducting this sum from 25,986,687l. a deficiency of 3,334,729l. will remain to be made up by new taxes, in order to render the national income equal to the expenditure. But, considering that no allowance is made for the duties imposed upon articles which will inevitably prove unproductive, and that it is taken for granted that all the taxes which have been laid in the last two years will produce the full sums at which they have been estimated, is it not to be apprehended that the deficiency will far exceed the sum at which it is stated in this account? It should likewise be remembered, that after the close of every war the taxes become less productive; and since our affairs have been so conducted for the last century, that before the revenue has recovered the effects of one war, the nation has been constantly hurried into another, we have no reason, from the experience of the past, to hope for any great improvement from the wisdom or the virtue of the future.'

The sixth section treats of public credit.

This section traces the origin and progress of the difficulties of the bank of England, previous to the issuing of the order of council, on the 26th february last. It appears that, on this subject, our author is possessed of more information than our english directory will be glad to read, and we have little doubt but his predictions will have a full verification. He then proceeds to give an account of similar banking transactions in other countries, where we find the history and the fall of the Mississippi company at Paris in 1720, and of the Caisse d'Escompte in the year 1788, the year of the commencement of the french revolution.

It appears from the statement, page 73, that, taking the bank shares, not at their present price, but *only at par*, and supposing the stock the bank holds to be sold out at 50, its present price, the bank of England, as a corporate company, would be obliged to meet the proprietors with a deficiency of more than two millions sterling! And this too, taking the accuracy of the secret committee's report for granted, a circumstance of much indulgence, after what has fallen from Mr. Grey, a member of that committee, on the conduct of its other members, in the house of commons.

Thus have we given an analysis of this masterly performance. If we have allowed it a space and a consideration above the allotment to many large volumes, we find our apology in the importance of the work: a work so important have we found it, that we do not hesitate to pronounce that man unfaithful to his own interest, at

this awful conjuncture, who does not give it a sober and careful perusal.

Mr. M. has made many pertinent and sarcastic remarks on this being called a war for *property*, (it appears as if undertaken expressly for its dissipation,) and the enemies of it being charged by those who have profited by it as the advocates of anarchy and plunder. He has abundantly proved there are other plunderers.

Such observations come with peculiar propriety from an author, who, with abilities which qualify for the most important offices, is known to be no political or party man, to be connected with no faction in or out of parliament; to be in circumstances the most easy, and to possess a taste as simple, and morals as correct, as his understanding is clear and accurate.

At such a moment will the people of England not attend! But what can be expected from a nation possessing all the contradictions and contrarieties of character? at once credulous and jealous; profuse in expense, and avaricious to madness; the dissipator of millions, and calculator of interest on farthings; in parliament the dupe of every strutting speechifier, on 'change an inquisitor, anxious only for profit, yet led by the poetry of Burke, and negligent of the demonstrations of Morgan!

ART. II. *Thoughts on Finance, suggested by the Measures of the present Session.* By the Earl of Lauderdale. 4to. 55 pages. Price 2s. Robinsons. 1797.

It is not from the volumes of 'royal and noble authors,' that the world has derived the science that has enlightened, or the literature that has adorned it. But the earl of L. is not one of the vulgar herd of his order. His mind, too vigorous for the still life of a mere voluptuary, has urged him to the activity of party, and to the profound investigation of national concerns.

The copious extracts we have given in the preceding article, from the work of a veteran in calculation and finance*, render it less necessary for us to detail the statements of his respectable disciple.

The reader will find, however, from the following table, that the noble lord possesses the labour and ingenuity of calculation, which qualify him for usefulness in that department, the conductors of which, of late, have afforded us nothing to admire, but the patience with which the people endure their insolent oppression.

The minister, proposing to fund navy and exchequer bills, &c., to the amount of 15,000,000 l., gave the holder of the bills the selection of the stock, according to a fixed proportion. To prove, that in the calculation the grossest ignorance was manifested, that his scale of prices, submitted to the holders of the bills, was regulated by no fixed principle, and that the compensation, by saving in interest in the 3 per cents, for increase of capital over the 4 per cents and 5 per cents, was not proportionate to the different classes, our author gives the following table:—P. 20.

* Mr. Morgan.

TABLE

TABLE showing the Capital and Interest

TABLE showing the Capital and Interest created in the different Classes of Navy and Exchequer Bills funded; with a View of the Compensation the Public acquire by saving in Interest in the 4 and 5 per Cents, for the Augmentation of Capital created in the 3 per Cents, and a Statement of the Errors in the 2d, 3d, and 4th Clafs, on the supposition that the Proportions in the 1st are accurate.

Capital created.		Interest.		Statement of the Excess of Capital created in the 3 per cents. over the 4 and 5 per cents. and of the Compensation in Interest saved to the Public to indemnify them for the additional Capital granted.		Statement of the Compensation in Interest that ought to have been allowed for the Augmentation of Capital in the 2d, 3d, and 4th Classes, provided the Proportions are right in the first.	
1st Class.	1st Class.	1st Class.	1st Class.	1st Class.	1st Class.	2d Class.	2d Class.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1st Class.							
Navy Bill of £. 100 funded in 3 per cents. at 56, will create in Stock a Debt of -	178 12 5	7 1	1	Excess of the Capital created in the 3 per cents. over the 4 -	39 14 4	0	
Do. in the 4 per cents. at 72 -	138 18 5	11 1	1	Do. above 5 per cents -	59 11 12	0	
Do. in the 5 per cents. at 84 -	119 1 5	19 0	0				
2d Class.							
Navy Bill of £. 100 funded in the 3 per cents. at 56: 10, will create in Stock a Debt of -	177 0 5	6 2	2	Excess of the Capital created in the 3 per cents. over the 4 -	39 2 4	2	
Do. in the 4 per cents. at 72: 10, -	137 18 5	10 4	4	Do. above 5 per cents. -	58 13 12	2	
Do. in the 5 per cents. at 84: 10, -	118 7 5	18 4	4				
3d Class.							
Navy Bill of £. 100 funded in 3 per cents. at 57, will create in Stock a Debt of -	175 9 5	5 3	3	Excess of the Capital created in the 3 per cents. over the 4 -	38 9 4	4	
Do. in the 4 per cents. at 73, -	137 0 5	9 7	7	Do. above 5 per cents. -	57 16 12	5	
Do. in the 5 per cents. at 85, -	117 13 5	17 8	8				
4th Class.							
Navy Bill of £. 100 funded in 3 per cents. at 57: 10, will create in Stock a Debt of -	173 18 5	4 4	4	Excess of the Capital created in the 3 per cents. over the 4 -	37 17 4	6	
Do. in the 4 per cents. at 73: 10, -	136 1 5	8 10	10	Do. above 5 per cents. -	56 19 12	8	
Do. at the 5 per cents. at 85: 10, -	116 19 5	17 0	0				
						Differences.	
						s. d.	s. d.
						3 11	0 3
						11 10	0 4
						3 11	0 5
						11 10	0 7
						3 10	0 8
						11 8	1 2

The other statements, given in this pamphlet, go, upon the same principles, to the proof, so directly, of the same point, with those of Mr. Morgan, that we think it unnecessary to present them to the reader*.

He will judge, however, of our author's manner and style from the following specimen: P. 47.

' But it is needless to anticipate calamity; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. A revenue of 25,000,000 l. from so small a population and territory as this country contains, may be collected.— But the history of man furnishes no example of it. In the year 1768, Mr. Burke declared, " That no man had considered the finance of France with any degree of attention or information, but must hourly look for some extraordinary convulsion in the whole system, the effect of which on France, and even on all Europe, it was difficult to conjecture." Dr. Adam Smith about this time states the revenue of France, from the best information he could obtain, to amount to 15,000,000 l. and that of England to 10,000,000 l.; but our permanent peace expenditure now creates the necessity of a revenue larger than that of both countries at the time when Mr. Burke discerned the seeds of a revolution in the revenue of France.—Even in this situation, I doubt not that ministers, whose past conduct has shut the door to all reasonable hope of honest fame, regardless of futurity, may blunder on from session to session, enjoying the pitiful prospect of a few more years of power and emolument. But there is no thinking man who must not tremble for the fate of the country, and look forward with doubt and hesitation at the possibility of our retaining, under the pressure of such accumulated taxation, that weight and importance as a nation which we have hitherto enjoyed.'

It is certainly not in the power of man to ascertain, by political arithmetic, *how* much a people will suffer to be drawn from them, by the government under which they live. This must depend on so many circumstances, their knowledge, their courage, the fertility of the soil, the subjugation and plunder of foreign countries, that it is impossible to foretel the moment of resistance, with the same accuracy as we are able to say, on any given day, when the sun will set. We can only reason from analogy, and such reasoning offers to us at present no views of consolation or tranquillity.

We are not surprised at our author referring to Mr. Burke, whose works have lately made so much impression on this devoted country; but we think Mr. Burke a feeble authority, indeed, on subjects connected with finance. He has called Mr. Pitt 'a financier above all praise!'

Mr. Burke just knows enough of this, and many other subjects, to enable him to place it, as an ornament in his page; his knowledge is sufficient for the adorning of eloquence, not for the direction of conduct and the guidance of life. The man of taste will long regard his writings for their classic beauty; but the time fast approaches, when the politician will accompany his name, with a smile of scorn, and the man of benevolence will pronounce it with horror.

* This pamphlet was indeed published *before* Mr. Morgan's. But the reader will remember Mr. Morgan's pamphlet is but one of a series, of which two were published some time ago; this circumstance, and the superiour information it contains, authorized us to give it the first place in our review.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

ART. III. *State of the Poor, &c.* By Sir Frederic Morton Eden, Bart.

[Continued from page 238.]

THE operation of the poor laws, their incompetency to the purposes of their original formation, and the impossibility of framing a code, which shall provide a supply for the wants of the poor, without diminishing their industry, or destroying their care, are subjects to which our author has given so much attention, and which he has examined with such exactness, that we are not inclined to controvert his conclusions concerning them. We should, however, be sorry to see the crazy fabric of these laws demolished, in the *present state of property*, although we have no doubt, that in a better constituted society, nothing of the kind would be at all necessary.

Were those contrivances done away, those laws utterly abolished, which preserve property in large masses, and prevent it's distribution among all the members of wealthy families; did the labourer receive the fair value of his industry and exertions; and were monopolists and capitalists not exclusively favoured by the legislature; the poor laws might be annihilated, and the lowest of the community need not shed a tear.

Till this is done, nothing in behalf of the poor can be accomplished, and the legislator who concerns himself with the correction and improvement of the present insulting statutes, in this state of society, may be compared to the man, who, having diverted a stream from it's original course, in which it spread fertility and beauty all around it, is now busied with cutting small canals, that a little water may be thrown upon the former paradise, which his folly or wickedness has converted into a desolate wilderness. And to make the metaphor exact, it must not be forgotten, that the diverted stream, far from benefiting, inundates and destroys the grounds, through which it has been, by the hand of art, contrary to the order of nature, made to flow.

Giving it as our decided opinion, that the labouring classes can be made comfortable, only by the legislature destroying monopolies and entails, and providing that industry should receive it's fair reward, we leave that able financier, Mr. Pitt, to project improvements in a system radically defective, and pass on to the examination of a point, which sir F. with much zeal labours to establish—'that for centuries, the condition of the labouring classes has been in a gradual state of improvement.'

In proof of this, he gives tables of the different prices of labour and provision, and of our population, the former of which we now proceed to examine.

Previously to giving extracts from the table of prices, by which to ascertain the comparative accommodations of the labouring part of the community, we ought to observe, that articles of food appear to us the best criteria, in relation to the price of which the price of labour can be taken. The price of cloth *necessary* for the labourer can hardly be ever ascertained, as the terms *coarse* and *fine* are so indefinite, that it is impossible to say what they

they describe. That cloth, then esteemed *fine* and *gay*, was accessible to the labourers in remote times, is sufficiently shown, by the statutes so repeatedly enacted, and produced by our author, in such abundance, prohibiting their wearing any above a fixed price, which is by the way no mean proof of their wages bearing as fair a relation to the accommodations they wanted, as the wages of labour in our days.

It cannot indeed be questioned, that in the present advanced state of manufactures, every kind of clothing is made more pleasing to the eye than it was 500 years ago; but as this is merely an object of taste, and the labourer will find himself equally mortified, if his coat now look as well as a knight's coat looked formerly, on observing his master's coat of the present day as much excel his, as the knight's excelled the labourer's in former times, little of benefit can be said to have arisen to the labourer from the circumstance of improved manufactures, unless it appear, that he is now clothed in more *comparative neatness*, or more protected from the inclemencies of the weather.

We do not think, that these observations bear equally upon the raw material, and we are glad to find, that sir F., by giving the price of *wool*, has furnished us with the best test, that any thing relating to cloths affords, to which we can bring the real value of labour and industry.

The following table, the first column of which is taken from our author's appendix, page lxxix, containing the average price of wheat and malt at different periods, from the year 1595 to the year 1795; the second column, from the second appendix; and of which the third column is the result of a comparison of the former two; will enable the reader, as far as the article of grain is concerned, we presume, to form some judgment of the comparative comfort of the labouring classes during the last two hundred years. It will appear to any who take the trouble to turn to the conversion table page viii, appendix i, that there is little necessity to borrow it's aid in the calculations in the following table, since, during the last two hundred years, little variation has taken place in the value of our money. It must be recollected, that we have chosen all along to calculate upon the wages of the lowest labourers, and for all seasons excepting harvest. The meanest labourer is a man, and may be the father of a family, if the dearest rights of nature be not denied him.

Money price of provision at different periods.

From the year	Quarter of wheat			Quarter of malt		
1595 to 1605	£.2	1	6½	£.1	3	9½
1606 to 1625	2	3	2¼	1	2	9
1626 to 1645	2	10	5	1	10	0
1646 to 1665	2	17	5½	1	12	0¼
1666 to 1685	2	6	3½	1	6	7
1686 to 1705	2	5	10½	1	6	8
1706 to 1725	2	4	9	1	8	2½
1726 to 1745	1	17	9¼	1	7	0½
1746 to 1764	2	0	1½	1	7	8¼
1765 to 1775	2	17	4	1	14	5
1776 to 1795	2	15	10½	1	17	3

Money price of labour at different periods.			Labour price of provision at different periods.		
A.D.					
1593	Common labourer per diem without diet	4d.	{ 1 qr. wheat equal to 124 day's labour.		
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	71 ditto
1610	ditto	7d.	{ 1 qr. wheat	—	74 ditto
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	39 ditto
1651	ditto	10d.	{ 1 qr. wheat	—	69 ditto
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	38 ditto
1682	ditto	10d.	{ 1 qr. wheat	—	55 ditto
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	32 ditto
1725	ditto	10d.	{ 1 qr. wheat	—	53 ditto
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	34 ditto
1795	ditto	15d.	{ 1 qr. wheat	—	45 ditto
			{ 1 qr. malt	—	30 ditto

This table, were wheat and malt the only articles of human consumption, would lead us to conclude with sir F., that the condition of the labourer is increasing in comfort; but alas! the reader has only to examine the tables he has given us of the prices of butcher's meat, to find the truth of the opposite conclusion. The only article of consumption for the poor, which bears a less relative value to labour now, than it did in former times, is corn. And the above table shows, that the advantage during the last 100 years, as to this single article, is comparatively trifling, while every species of butcher's meat is nearly *five times the price it was* sixty years ago, and during that time labour has not advanced in price above one third*.

In the table placed lxxxiv appendix No. 2.

A. D. 1710.	Beef	-	$1\frac{1}{10}$ d	per pound.
	Veal	-	$2\frac{2}{5}$	ditto.
	Mutton	-	2	ditto.
	Lamb	-	$2\frac{2}{10}$	ditto.

Labour since this period has not increased above one third in price, as appears from the different tables contained in the third volume of this work, and at this time *fresh* butter was not upon an average sold for more than three-pence per pound.

It is well observed by Dr. Price, that the consumption of bread will be increased from the impossibility of the poor affording any other article of consumption for their families, and he gives this as a reason why the high price of corn now sooner produces complaint, and causes the ports to be shut against its exportation, than it did formerly, because the poor having other articles in their power, corn was not such an essential necessary as it is now become. Dr. Price, in the supplement to his invaluable book on reverſionary payments, observes, that in an act of parliament of 25 Henry VIII, beef, veal, pork, and mutton, are mentioned as the food of the poor, and their price limited to about a half-penny a pound! With such facts before him, with the facts he has recorded, we are at a loss to find expressions sufficiently strong to convey our astonishment, that sir F. could for a moment entertain the opi-

* Lodgings, or houses for the poor, are at present beyond all proportion dearer than they were 100 years ago.

nion, that the poor are in a state of improvement as to their accommodation. Vain and delusive dream! The wretchedness of the labourer is fast approaching that point, which shall operate it's own relief; for it is of the nature of all earthly evils to perish by their own excess. The collections and calculations of Mr. Davies, the worthy rector of Barkham*, come in confirmation of our author's tables, and in refutation of his conclusion.

It is now a common observation all through this country, that it is matter of astonishment how our forefathers did without potatoes, which are at present almost the whole food of our most wretched peasantry. This surprise arises from our people knowing that *at this time* the labourer could not subsist without this useful commodity; but it will cease when it is recollected, that the fathers of our present cottagers, fed upon beef, mutton, and pork; articles of which they now sometimes *hear*; but they hear at the same moment their rulers cry, 'touch not, taste not, handle not.'

Nor do we take the data of calculation from the years of this present wasteful and oppressive war. The misery of the last four years has been greater than at any former period, compared with the time which immediately preceded them, if we except the momentary rage of plague or of famine. A war, the object of which is worthy of a barbarous age, while it's conduct has not been exceeded by the malignity and vengeance of the most dreadful times. But God has distracted the counsels of the cruel, and that which was intended to extinguish the liberties of the human race he will make the instrument of their happy establishment.

But whatever may be the result of sir F.'s inquiries respecting the comparative condition of our labourers at this, and more early periods of our history, he has little cause to triumph on the subject of their accommodation. We think it has been observed by one of the most active and intelligent philanthropists that this country now boasts (Dr. Beddoes) that the abject condition of the labourers in agriculture in every part of the world, and at every period of time, appears so remarkable, that an observer would be tempted to conclude, that a general conspiracy had always existed among men, against whatever is most valuable and important in society.

That conspiracy has not ceased. From the account that our author has given of the earnings and expenditure of near seventy labouring families, in which there appears to be no want of industry and care, only thirteen of that number appear to make, according to the vulgar expression, ends meet. A deficiency appears in the accounts of the year of all the others!

Nor let us adopt the common cant of superficial or malignant men, and charge this deficiency upon the improvidence of the labourers or their wives. To such as are thus disposed, we recommend the attentive perusal of the following account, taken from page 579 of the first volume, which we do not fear to compare, in all the excellence of human character, with the history of all the *independent gentlemen* of our insulted country, from the

* Anal. Rev. for July 1795; Vol. xxii, p. 1.

right honourable lord Onslow, to the right honourable lord Grenville.

Anne Hurst was born at *Witley* in *Surry*: there she lived the whole period of a long life; and there she died. As soon as she was thought able to work, she went to service: there before she was twenty, she married James Strudwick; who, like her own father, was a day-labourer. With this husband she lived a prolific, hard-working, contented wife, somewhat more than fifty years. He worked more than threescore years on one farm, and his wages, summer and winter, were regularly a shilling a day. He never asked more; nor was he ever offered less. They had between them seven children; and lived to see six daughters married, and three of them the mothers of sixteen children; all of whom were brought up, or are bringing up, to be day-labourers. Strudwick continued to work till within seven weeks of the day of his death; and at the age of fourscore, in 1787, he closed, in peace, a not inglorious life; for to the day of his death, he never received a farthing in the way of parochial aid. His wife survived him about seven years; and though bent with age and infirmities, and little able to work, excepting as a weeder in a gentleman's garden, she was also too proud either to ask or receive any relief from the parish. For six or seven of the last years of her life, she received twenty shillings a year, from the person who favoured me with this account, which he drew up from her own mouth. With all her virtue and all her merit, she yet was not much liked in her neighbourhood: people in affluence thought her haughty; and the paupers of the parish, seeing, as they could not help seeing, that her life was a reproach to theirs, aggravated all her little failings. Yet the worst thing they had to say of her was, that she was proud; which they said was manifested by the manner in which she buried her husband. Resolute, as she owned she was, to have the funeral, and every thing that related to it, what she called decent, nothing could persuade her from having handles to his coffin, and a plate on it mentioning his age. She was also charged with having behaved herself crossly and peevishly towards one of her sons-in-law, who was a mason, and went regularly, every saturday evening, to the ale-house, as he said, just to drink a pot of beer. James Strudwick, in all his life, as she often told this ungracious son-in-law, never spent five shillings in any idleness; luckily (as she was sure to add) he had it not to spend. A more serious charge against her was, that, living to a great age, and but little able to work, she grew to be seriously afraid, that at last she might become chargeable to the parish (the heaviest, in her estimation, of all human calamities) and that thus alarmed, she did suffer herself more than once, during the exacerbations of a fit of distempered despondency, peevishly (and perhaps petulantly) to exclaim, that God Almighty, by suffering her to remain so long upon earth, seemed actually to have forgotten her. Such are the simple annals of dame Strudwick; and her historian, partial to his subject, closes it with lamenting, that such village memoirs have not often been sought for and recorded.

‘ She

'She would have handles on the coffin of her husband, and a plate recording his age!' and this was alleged against her! Yet this simple receptacle contained a deposit, more precious than any egyptian pyramid ever covered. 'She was proud!' Yes, she had that pride that scorns *dependence*, that thinks all labour honourable; but feels an obligation as a wound. We believe this pride is the foundation of every human virtue, and it's want, the origin of all that degrades our nature.

Yet even this patient labour, this minute economy, this proud independence, could not protect our heroine from the fear of a workhouse, and the reception of private bounty. And all this exact care and industry were attended with an uncommon portion of constant health, and yet the wife of James Strudwick, whose labour has contributed to support lord lieutenants and ministers of state, thought God had forgotten her, when she saw, if the grave refused her an asylum, she must end her life in a work-house!

Reader, 'if you have tears, refuse not to shed them now;' but while you shed them, do not determine to sit down in unavailing sorrow, but arouse all the powers within you, to meliorate the condition of the labourer.

Is there a human being in existence, whose heart was ever warmed by the feelings of humanity, who is not prepared to place his foot on the grave of James and Anne Strudwick, and looking up to heaven, swear that he will exert every faculty within him, in the peaceable formation and execution of plans, which shall give to the worthy sons of daily toil a tranquil evening of life, and a comfortable passage out of it!

The attention we have given to the tables of our author has irresistibly convinced us, that the conclusion of the following reflection, made by a man whose name will be ever dear to freemen, and which will never perish in this country, till it consists of no orders but *grandees* and *slaves*, is most just.—'The nominal price of day labour is at present no more than about four times, or at most five times higher than it was in the year 1514: but the price of corn is *seven times**, and of flesh-meat and raiment above *fifteen times* higher. So far, therefore, has the price of labour been from advancing in proportion to the increase in the expences of living, that it does not appear that it bears now *half* the proportion to those expences that it did bear formerly †.'

On the subject of the population of this country, our author observes as follows: appendix, No. XIV, page cccii.

'The following table was drawn up from the parochial reports contained in this work, chiefly for the purpose of shewing, that every estimate of the population of England and Wales, as far as it may be founded on the returns of the surveyors of the house and window duties, must be extremely fallacious; and that there is a much more considerable proportion of houses excused for poverty in the kingdom, than is usually imagined.

* This, we think, states the price of corn in 1514 much too low.

† Price's *Reversionary Payments*, page 295.

In 1690, according to George King, there were		In Eng. & Wales.	
And	-	710,000	dwellings of poor.
	-	590,000	solvent houses.

1,300,000 total number of houses.

Dr. Price offers the following statement, from the books of the surveyors of the house and window duties, of the number of chargeable and exempted houses in 1777.

701,473 charged and chargeable.
251,261 excused for poverty.

952,734 total number of houses.

From which he infers, that the population of England and Wales has declined very considerably since the revolution. Mr. Chalmers, however, reasonably concludes, that since the 590,000 chargeable houses in 1690 were accompanied with 710,000 dwellings of the poor, 721,000, the number of chargeable houses in 1781, must consequently have been accompanied with 865,000 dwellings of the poor. And supposing the number of chargeable houses not to have diminished since 1781, it would appear from the following accounts of assessed and exempted houses (which were made out from the best evidence that could be obtained) that his estimate is near, or perhaps rather below, the truth.

Of 90 instances of places in which the number of assessed and exempted houses is particularized, and which in the following table have an asterisk (*) prefixed to them,

	Charged houses.	Exempted houses.
The 1st 15 contain	2543	2646
2d 15	2234	2476
3d 15	1792	1671
4th 15	5153	5649
5th 15	7140	9234
6th 15	5602	10329
	24464	32005

According to this proportion, the number of exempted houses in England and Wales will amount to

To which add - - 943,247
721,000 chargeable houses,

Form a total of - - 1,664,247

This number multiplied by $\frac{5}{3}$, Mr. Howlett's proportion of persons to a house, gives a proportion of 8,986,933

Multiplied by 5, Dr. Price's proportion, 8,321,235

It will be obvious to the reader, that in many instances, in which I have not been able to obtain the number of exempted houses (as in Manchester, Norwich, Yarmouth, Kendal, Bradford, &c.) it is much greater than that of assessed houses.

Our author has, we think, been somewhat hasty in pronouncing every estimate of the population of England to be extremely fallacious, as far as it may be founded upon the returns of the surveyors.

surveyors of the house and window duties, merely upon the *better authority* of his own tables upon this subject.

We have examined his table contained in the 14th appendix, and instead of thinking it of sufficient accuracy, to pass in refutation of statements given in upon oath, by persons whose local residence and official duty peculiarly qualify them for an accurate report of the houses in their neighbourhood, we have no scruple in pronouncing the accounts contained in this table obviously incorrect, and a *disgrace* to the respectable work into which they are introduced.

We shall give some examples of the truth of our observation.

	Houses paying window tax.	Exempted.
* Birmingham <i>about</i>	- - 4000 - <i>above</i>	7000
Trowbridge - . -	- 204 - <i>about</i>	450
Minchhead - - -	- 110 - <i>about</i>	170
Bury - - -	- 325 - <i>probably about</i>	600.

Nay, so grossly negligent have the friends of sir F. been with whom he has corresponded, and who have undertaken to furnish him with these *accurate* statements, that, where the whole number of houses has not exceeded 100, our author has only been favoured with a *guess*; of this the account of Burton is a fair example.

	Charged houses.	Exempted houses.
* Burton -	51 <i>about</i>	50.

Indeed, when we consider the little time allowed for the collection of materials from travel, for this large work, the silence of our author respecting the sources of his information on the subject of the houses in this country, and the loose mode in which the statements are made, for scarcely a number occurs in which we are not led to suspend our judgment, by some ambiguous expression, such as *about*, *above*, *probably above*, when we consider all these matters, we are led to believe these tables of the number of houses to be entitled to *no credit*.

In looking over the parochial reports, we were so struck with the accuracy of that of Epsom, that we anxiously looked to its place in the table, thinking no error could be found in it. We found, to our surprise and mortification, the following proportions stated.

	Taxed houses.	Exempted.
* Epsom -	238	89.

Population of Epsom 1671, being $5\frac{1}{10}$ to a house, which is only $\frac{1}{10}$ above Dr. Price's number. We believe the world is obliged for this parochial report, which evinces the hand of a master, to the rev. Mr. Boucher, now vicar of Epsom, and the ingenious writer of the Address to the county of Cumberland, which forms the 19th appendix of this work.

But admitting the returns of the surveyors to be erroneous, why have they been *uniformly below* the truth? We believe the more general propensity is to overrate the number of houses and inhabitants, when they are estimated by *guess*; and we find ourselves not singular in this opinion.

If the returns of the surveyors be not to be relied upon, on which Dr. Price builds his calculations, concerning the population.

lation of this country (not however without drawing a strong corroboration of those statements from actual enumeration of the houses in various towns) how comes it that the statements of George King, the basis of Mr. Chalmer's calculations, are to be taken as correct? We should be glad to see sir F. *make out this case* to satisfaction. The plain fact is, that Dr. Price's calculations are unanswerable, unless the surveyors accounts can be invalidated, and this cannot be done by the loose statements of our author, or the dogmatical assertions of the secretary of lord Liverpool.

As the argument turns upon the proportion of assessed to exempted houses, and as sir F. and Mr. Chalmers, make the exempted houses bear a much larger proportion to the assessed ones than Dr. Price, on the authority of George King; if it were even granted them, that their received proportion is the true one, it would indeed go to prove, that our population is *now* greater than Dr. Price conceived; but then it will not prove, that it has *increased* since the revolution, (the matter to be ascertained) unless the *proportionate number* of exempted houses could be proved to have *increased* since that time.

If there be any truth in the statement of Dr. Davenant, certainly possessing as fair a claim to credit as that of George King, the chargeable houses, about the time of the revolution, were more numerous than at any time since. But leaving his statement out of the case, from the year 1759, the first year in which the exempted houses were ordered to be returned, to the year 1777, the assessed houses had decreased, and on supposition that the proportion was preserved, whatever that was, a decrease of the general population must be admitted. But who does not know, who has travelled through, or resided in the country, that a number almost incalculable of cottages have been thrown down during the last fifty years? On the other hand, who is not conscious, that, during this period, the custom of one man keeping two good houses has increased to a prodigious degree? Whatever was the proportion at the revolution betwixt chargeable and exempted houses, the proportion since that time must be greatly varied, in favour of the increase of those chargeable, and the decrease of those exempted. And certainly, no one will suppose, that luxury, taxes, and wars, which have abounded in the interval since the revolution, favour the increase of population.

If it be true, and we believe it is, that the increase of the species will bear an exact proportion to the ease with which the necessities of life are procured, this country had been long enough peopled at the revolution, to have become well stocked with inhabitants. Every one knows, that what constitute the necessities or conveniences of life, which to an individual accustomed to them are the same thing, depend much upon *opinion, custom, and habit*. If custom make it expected, that a man should keep an expensive establishment, it is to that man a *necessary*. He will not marry to be *degraded*, which he considers living in a simplicity different from his education to be. He will indulge his passions in some other way. Thus *luxury* prevents matrimony, increases

prostitutes,

prostitutes, and diminishes population. What this reasoning renders probable concerning England, receives no confutation from the calculations of Chalmers, or the collections of our author.

The increase of horses and every luxury far more than counterbalances the advantages of an increased tillage. We have observed in our author's tables of marriages and births no powerful evidence of increased population, but this must indeed be a very doubtful source from which to draw any arguments on this subject.

Indeed, after giving an attention to this work sufficiently laborious, we do not perceive that our author has supported with overwhelming evidence the opinion expressed in his preface, that among the evils we have to lament a decreased population is not to be numbered.

[To be continued.]

ART. IV. *An Abstract of some important Parts of a Bill, now depending in Parliament, intituled, "A Bill for the better Support and Maintenance of the Poor;" with some practical Observations on the Effects that will probably be experienced in many Parishes, particularly those that are large and populous, if the said Bill is passed into a Law. Prepared by a Committee of the Joint Vestry of the United Parishes of St. Giles in the Fields and St. George Bloomsbury; and printed by Order of the said Vestry. 8vo. 55 pages. Debrett. 1797.*

A SUBJECT of such unparalleled importance as a national provision for the poor cannot possibly be discussed too generally, or too freely; or, perhaps, are any persons so well qualified for the discussion, as they who have become personally acquainted with the circumstances and situation of that numerous and unfortunate class of our fellow-citizens, by having at different times been members of some committee for the regulation of their own workhouse, or the superintendence of their own parochial poor. As the title page informs us, this pamphlet is prepared by the joint vestry of two united parishes: it is introduced by a respectable list of the persons who composed this vestry; and the observations which succeed on various clauses of the poor bill now depending in parliament—many of which are acute and forcible—tend to show, that the interest of their own, and, on similar principles, that the interest of other parishes must be materially affected, should this bill pass; that the increase of the poor rate will be more than double its present amount; and that no adequate benefit will result to such as are really distressed. Our readers will be enabled to form a judgment of the nature of these remarks from the following specimen: the 9th clause in the bill enacts, that a

P. 11.—'Parochial fund is to be established in every parish, partly from *subscriptions*, or voluntary contributions and benefactions—and partly from *aid out of the poor rate*, whereby the persons subscribing may be entitled to greater allowances than such savings as can be expected to be made by them out of their own earnings; such allowances encreasing in proportion to the periods for or in respect of which they shall have subscribed; and every person residing in a parish,

parish, although *not settled* therein, shall be entitled to become a subscriber, and to the benefits and allowances prescribed by the act.

On this clause the following observations are offered:

P. 33. — The scheme displayed in this clause, seems to have been suggested by the general prevalence of those very useful institutions, called *friendly or benefit societies*; but apparently without any knowledge of the principles upon which these societies are managed and supported. Their affairs are all under their *own management* and superintendence; and one strong principle upon which they stand, and without which they could not long exist, is, that *they are not compelled* (as the managers of the proposed *parochial fund* are to be) to admit any members but such as they themselves judge to be in some degree provident and industrious persons: and if any member applies to the fund for assistance, his claim to it is strictly scrutinized by his *associates*, who are best able to judge whether it is well or ill founded; and every member, upon his admission, knows that this will be the case, and enters into the society upon the express conditions, that when he applies for assistance, his claim to it is to be *tried by his peers*, in the strongest sense of that expression, and not by a different class of men, of superior ranks in life, and who can have no adequate means of being proper judges of his real circumstances. The scheme of a parochial fund has this further disadvantage, that the subscribers to it have not (as the members of benefit societies have) the little, yet truly laudable and useful ambition, of having a share in the management of their own concerns; and of being, in their turns, inspectors into the conduct and claims of those who become burthensome to the fund. Without the influence of principles like these, and without that check which persons in the same rank of life can in this instance most effectually have upon each other's conduct, a fund of the kind which is described in this clause, would in many populous parishes undoubtedly have a very mischievous tendency; for *all* persons who offer, whether having settlements in the parish or not, *must* be admitted subscribers; and those vagrants, and even common beggars and common thieves, who would be very properly rejected with disdain by a *benefit society*, would probably become subscribers to the *parochial fund* for a short time, with no other view than to declare upon it when a fit opportunity offers, and to remain a burthen upon it almost continually afterwards, under some of those numerous *pretences*, which persons of these descriptions are very expert at inventing. And if several thousands of these vagrant and unprincipled people (which is not at all an improbable case, though appearing to persons, who are inexperienced in their artifices, almost incredible) were to offer their temporary subscriptions in *one* very populous parish in the metropolis, or its vicinity, it would be utterly impossible when they declared upon the fund, to investigate the nature of their several claims; or to discover the many impositions which they would practise. In the parishes of St. Giles and Bloomsbury, already mentioned, a dozen beadles or messengers, constantly employed, would hardly be sufficient for this purpose; and there is great reason to believe that many hundreds of the lower classes of the

the natives of Ireland would come from that kingdom to establish themselves in the said parishes, for scarcely any other purpose (for many of them now come thereto from more trifling motives) than to take the benefit of this proposed fund. Add to this, that in these parishes alone, if the fund was to be carried to any considerable extent, either *beneficial* or *detrimental* in its tendency, three or four clerks would be requisite to keep the books; and if the fund is to be under the management of the overseers of the poor, its concerns alone would take up almost the whole of their time, and leave them little or no leisure to attend to the very heavy task of managing and relieving the poor.'

ART. V. *Remarks on the Bill for the better Support and Maintenance of the Poor, now depending in the House of Commons.* By William Belsham. Quarto. 20 pages. Price 1s. Robinsons. 1797.

MR. BELSHAM, after deprecating the inverted phraseology of politicians, who measure the prosperity of the country, by the magnificence of a birth-night ball, the splendour of our festinos, and the number of our galas; and after stating the indigence and misery which pervade our cottages, and the inefficacy of every measure which has hitherto been adopted for reducing them; takes a survey of three or four of what appear to him the most objectionable clauses in Mr. Pitt's Poor Bill, now under consideration in the house of commons. Taking the clauses collectively, viewing them as a whole, the most striking objection, says Mr. B., to the plan is, 'that instead of simplifying a system already too complex, it makes, by engrafting a heap of new upon the existing stock of old provisions, the entire aggregate or code of poor laws infinitely more operose, confused, and intricate than before. On inspecting into this bill of Mr. Pitt's, we find, amongst other novelties, mention of parochial funds, schools of industry, county districts, visitors of the poor, wardens of the poor, &c. &c. in addition to what the laws now require: all which implies an artificial arrangement and complication of means for the attainment of a certain and definite end.' The clauses, on which Mr. B. animadvert, are not so numerous as those which are considered as objectionable by the "united vestry," mentioned in the preceding article. The remarks are ingenious and well written, and conclude with the sketch of a simple system, which Mr. B. has suggested in lieu of that which he has censured and condemned; it is as follows:

P. 16. 'I. The grand and fundamental defect of the system of poor's laws promulgated in the reign of Elizabeth, and in general so excellent, is this, that every parish is compelled to support not its resident poor, but merely those who *belong to it*; or who in a legal and limited sense are *inhabitants thereof*: so that in each parish there are those who have no claim upon the parish for support, and on the other hand there are those who, dwelling at the distance of 50, 100, or 200 miles, possess that claim in law which, in the view of reason and common sense, belongs only to those who are actually resident. This has been the inexhaustible and everlasting source of vexation, persecution, and litigation. All the parishes in England, and even those included within the limits of the same town, have

been placed by it in a state of perpetual distrust, enmity, and hostility. Withdrawment from the place of their legal habitation has been regarded as a sort of crime in the poor. They have been in innumerable instances sent back, with most unfeeling cruelty, in circumstances of the deepest distress. These ORDERS OF REMOVAL, for the most part founded upon dark and doubtful grounds of evidence, have given rise to a multiplicity of law-suits, carried on at a vast expence, and with implacable and incredible animosity. The decisions of the courts at Westminster on these causes have given birth to what is called the "law of settlement"—a branch of english jurisprudence to the last degree confused, inconsistent, and intricate. The poor have been sufferers, the public have been sufferers, the LAWYERS only have been the gainers by this state of things. For how can they consult the interest, if not the credit, of the profession more effectually than by first laying it down as a general principle, that residency shall not constitute inhabitancy, and then employing their ingenuity in devising a thousand disputatious modes by which this obnoxious principle may be evaded or superseded. Something indeed has been done, and something considerable, towards a reform of the existing system, by the excellent bill of Mr. East, himself, to the honour of the profession, a lawyer, for the prevention of vexatious removals; but this is merely a palliative, and the radical remedy still remains a *desideratum* earnestly to be sought.

II. The second provision or regulation for the relief of the poor in point of importance is, the establishment of parochial funds on the general principles laid down in Mr. Pitt's bill. As there seems to be no difference of opinion with respect to the utility and beneficial tendency of these associations, it is not necessary to enlarge upon this head.

III. The next measure to be recommended, is the total exemption of the labouring poor from the burden of the parochial rates or poor's tax. It seems absurd and monstrous to compel those to contribute to the support of others, who are scarcely able to support themselves. And no one who is not conversant in these matters, can conceive or imagine how serious and important a sum, two or three shillings, the common amount of a parochial rate to a cottager, is to a poor family whose weekly earnings but barely suffice to procure for them the common necessities of life. After all, the proportion paid by this class of the community to the poor's rates is but a mere trifle, compared with the aggregate sum: and the additional burden to be borne in consequence of this regulation, by the higher classes, would be scarcely felt; while the relief given by it to the lower, would excite the most lively and grateful impression, and afford a most sensible alleviation of their distress.

IV. It seems highly expedient, though this is a matter of acknowledged delicacy and difficulty, that in certain circumstances, and under proper limitations, the magistrates of each county should be invested with a power to fix the *minimum*, as in many cases they are now authorized to fix the *maximum*, of the price or value of labour,

‘ V. It would be productive of the happiest effects, if premiums were offered, in a mode easy to be devised and actually practised, in particular instances, by patriotic individuals, for the encouragement of industry, œconomy, and sobriety: and yet farther, if a fund were set apart in every county for the consolation of indigence and wretchedness, by building cottages in villages, or upon wastes, with small orchards or gardens annexed, to be let at very low reserved rents, by way of reward to the most meritorious and industrious of the poor.

‘ VI. The idea suggested in Mr. Pitt’s bill, p. 3, well deserves to be incorporated into every comprehensive plan of relief and reform—viz. that no person should be excluded from parochial relief, who may otherwise have a just claim to it, merely because they are possessed of a little property, real or personal, to the amount of 30, 40, or 50l. And the present practice of refusing relief to such persons has the very worst tendency, by operating as a permanent and systematic discouragement to the acquisition of property by the poor, in a course of industry and œconomy.

‘ It is the characteristic of these regulations, and surely no inconsiderable recommendation of them, that they require neither visitors, guardians, wardens, or justices of districts, to carry them into execution. They are plain, easy, and intelligible to all; affording, it may be safely affirmed, far more effectual relief to the poor than the plan of Mr. Pitt, at far less expence to the public. They tend to the elucidation and simplification of a system, allowed to be, even in its present state, much too complex. But supposing Mr. Pitt’s multifarious provisions and regulations engrafted upon it, the whole plan of management would be rendered so operose, intricate, and embarrassing, that in the very crisis of completion, or, in the alchymical phrase, of *projection*, it must necessarily fall into chaotic confusion, utterly unable to sustain the elemental shock of its incipient movements.’

As some plan for the permanent provision of the poor is become a subject of general discussion, we take this opportunity of recommending to such as feel any interest in the misery of those around them, to peruse the invaluable essays of count Rumford; more particularly the first three, which treat successively, “on the public establishment for the poor in Bavaria; on the fundamental principles on which general establishments for the relief of the poor may be formed in all countries; and on food.”

L. M. S.

ART. VI. *Reflections on the Advantages and Disadvantages attending Commissions of Bankruptcy; clearly pointing out when they may be beneficial, or prejudicial to Creditors; and when they may be beneficial or hurtful to the unfortunate Bankrupt. A work calculated for the Perusal and serious Attention of every Merchant, Tradesman, or monied Man in the Kingdom.* 8vo. 39 pages. Price 2s. Sold at No. 3, Russell Court, Drury Lane.

WE are here told, what we are afraid is but too true, ‘that the law charges on bankruptcies are often most shamefully enormous;’ the tricks of unprincipled *pettyfoggers* are also complained of and laid open. Much information, and a considerable portion of humanity, pervade this little publication.

ART.

ART. VII. *An Essay upon Public Credit: being an Enquiry how the Public Credit comes to depend upon the Change of the Ministry, or the Dissolution of Parliaments, and whether it does so or no? &c.* By Robert Harley, Esq., afterwards Earl of Oxford, and Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain. 8vo. 35 pa. Price 1s. W. Baynes. London. 1797.

THE order of council, directing the bank to stop it's payments in species, has caused a sensation, which will be felt wherever the british name or influence is known. It is certainly not wonderful, that all England should now be in agitation, and that the public mind should be directed to inquiries so intimately connected with their existence as a commercial nation. Every coffee-house, every street, is a theatre of disputation, and the press begins to teem with productions, on subjects connected with our present circumstances. The events, under the pressure of which we are now groaning, have caused the republication of this pamphlet, first published in 1710, and mentioned and referred to by lord Lansdown, in the house of lords, the 28th of last month. The work begins with some observations upon *credit* in general, in which the noble author displays much sprightliness and ingenuity. P. 11.

'When A bought more goods of B than A had money to pay for, and B having no need of any goods that A had to sell, it behoved, that A should leave his goods with B for a certain time, in which A was to provide the money for the said goods; and this was done, both from the occasion B had to sell his goods, the occasion A had to buy them, and the opinion B had of A's integrity and ability for payment, and this is the great thing we call credit. Credit is a consequence, not a cause; the effect of a substance, not a substance; 'tis the sunshine not the sun, the quickening something, call it what you will, that gives life to trade, gives being to the branches, and moisture to the root; it is the oil of the wheel, the marrow in the bones, the blood in the veins, and the spirit in the heart of all the trade, cash, and commerce in the world. It is produced and grows insensibly, from fair and upright dealing, punctual compliance, honourable performance of contracts and covenants; and, in short, it is the offspring of universal probity.'

Having thus defined it's nature, and it's cause or origin, the author shows, it cannot be dependent upon any but the *acting parties*; that no *art* can produce credit, but, by creating suspicion, may destroy it.

He then proceeds to treat more expressly upon the credit of the public funds, as applicable to the times in which he wrote; and shows, that as credit had been lost by a want of punctually fulfilling engagements to the public creditor, by the government, so credit must be revived by *punctuality*.

He then labours to show, as was his interest, as an expectant of office, that credit did not depend for it's re-establishment on the then ministry and the parliament, the one of which was about to be dismissed, and the other dissolved, at the time, but upon the queen.

Here much, as might be expected from a courtier, who never can treat of any subject connected with government according to the strict rules of science, is ascribed to the queen, as if she had been the cause of that punctuality, which our author had already shown to be the

cause of all *credit*, public and private. However the pamphlet may be read with profit; if it be courtly, it is also scientific, and contains the true theory of *credit*, its *cause*, and effects.

The *punctuality*, here stated to be (and most justly) the *cause* of *credit*, is a matter for the consideration of a country, now giving currency to notes *payable on demand*, and yet protected by law from such demand and such payment.

The former part of the pamphlet applies to our circumstances at this moment; we wish the latter part, in which the noble author states the possibility of the national credit still rising above its former level, may be found equally applicable.

B.

ART. VIII. *New Circulating Medium: being an Examination of the Solidity of Paper Currency, and its Effects on the Country at this Crisis.* 8vo. 24 pages. Price 6d. Johnson. 1797.

THERE never was a period when free discussion was more necessary than at present: and on no subject can it be, or has it been more advantageous, than on that which forms the topic of this pamphlet. We are indeed fully persuaded, that had it not been for what has been said and written on paper currency, bank notes would have been by this time a legal tender, and perhaps an object of mercantile speculation, experiencing all the fluctuations of a ruinous discount.

The writer of this very sensible letter calls the attention of his *confiding* friend to the paper medium, and after recurring to the recent catastrophe of french credit, and french notes, considers it as a circumstance truly alarming, to have seen that 'the people of this country, so religious, so loyal, under the impression of ill-founded alarm, should drain the Bank of its treasure, regardless of the fate of all that is venerable and sacred in the government, all that is elegant and splendid in the establishments they affect to admire, in contempt of our public credit, and commercial existence.' He next demonstrates the superiority of the precious metals, considered as a circulating medium, above that of paper, by the comparative quantity of labour spent in procuring the former, and shows, that the conventional value of the latter can never be uniform, as the *quantum* of paper emission is wholly optional. 'Carry your thoughts,' says he, 'through a range as extensive as earthly existence, and you will find that the *relative value* of every article must be determined by the same circumstance, *human labor spent*. To this test bring your *paper currency*. Of what relative value is a bank note of one pound? Does it require the labour of a week to produce it? Of what additional value is a bank note of ten thousand pounds? It requires no additional labour to produce it. This is a circumstance of essential difference betwixt the gold and the paper guinea. The gold receives not its relative value from the mint impression, it is the legitimate representation of the industry and labour of man. The toil of a week produced it; it is of the value of any other article which is produced by the same quantity of labour. There is a *standard* which determines the relative value of every thing we possess, of every thing we enjoy, a standard recognized in every nation, and understood by every man; not the effect of convention and compact, but of stable and unvarying existence; not the creature of will, but the child of nature; not the creation of governments and legislation, but the eternal law of humanity.'

Among

Among a variety of miscellaneous observations, it is stated

1. To be highly impolitic to make the starving manufacturer acquainted with the *cause* and *foundation* of his misery. 2. To be doubtful whether we shall be able to preserve our foreign commerce and connexions under the influence of a *paper circulation*. 3. To be an inevitable consequence of our situation, that the course of exchange will be every where against us; and it is added, that it will become difficult, if not impracticable, to procure the raw materials which have hitherto employed the industry of the nation:

'And what,' says he, 'will be the consequence of one third of your people losing employment, and with it the means of existence? Your policy has already contributed, as sir Frederick Morton Eden states, and laments, to people the plains of America, and will you send *all* your riches there? For the productive labour is the artery of the wealth of nations.

'Are you prepared to divide all the commons of the country, free from the claims of manorial rights and tithes, amongst what were once your manufacturers, now your starving poor? This were a measure too powerful and democratical, for the contrivers and defenders of our paper circulation. Yet this must be adopted, and measures still more strong, if you will convert your commercial and manufacturing country, into an agricultural nation. This must be done with the sacrifice of *every particle of the feudal system*. And the far famed british, whose arts astonished, and whose arms appalled every quarter of the globe, will become a nation of husbandmen! The idea of such a change does not greatly shock me, because I do not know that the men of Britain would be then less happy than under the arrangements of the present system; but the prospect must be gazed on with affright by those, who conceive the splendour and the prosperity of a country to be one. Nor ought we to be unmindful of the difficulty of thus changing the national habits, even were that change desirable. A moment of consternation would intervene. The minds of men would be in that state, which is experienced betwixt the noise that precedes, and the awful concussion of an earthquake. And who can tell that their worst fears would not be realized? who can say that a political concussion would not take place, which would shake the edifice of our government, and tear to pieces the pillars of our private property? Of such a moment let the rich beware.'

The author concludes with pointing out the restoration of a well-founded confidence, as the cure for our malady: to procure this, peace must be obtained, the Bank must be re-opened, our grievances must be redressed, our finances must be examined, and our expenditure curtailed.

We recommend this pamphlet to commercial men of all parties: by the perusal of it, they will be able to perceive, that there is a more immediate relation, than perhaps they may be aware of, between the full and perfect enjoyment of civil liberty, and a flourishing trade.

ART. IX. *Measures recommended for the Support of Public Credit.*
By Captain James Burney. 4to. 20 pages. Price 1s. Robinsons. 1797.

Good advice, not likely to be well received and acted upon.—
The same as that given by Mr. Sheridan, in the house of commons
—decrease the quantity of circulating bank-paper, and make peace.
The

The reader will judge of the author's style and manner, by the following extract, in the sentiments of which, however, we do not concur: as we think, that, to make the national debt an *equitable* charge upon the proprietor of land, it is essential, that it should have been created under the sanction of a fair *representation of the people in parliament*, and we think the principles of the british constitution authorise this opinion.—p. 13.

“The support of public credit is equally the interest of the proprietor of land as of the proprietor of stock. The landholder may not be aware how much his interest is implicated; and men are apt to say, “If there should be a bankruptcy, thank God, the land remains.” I say too, thank God, that the land remains; and that no extravagance of mankind, however they may injure the produce; can annihilate the land. If mankind could have had such communication with the inhabitants of the sun or of the moon, or with any other agents, visible or invisible, as by parting with territory from the face of the earth to have obtained the means of supplying their immediate purposes, long before our time there would not have been a foot of land for an englishman, or, probably, for a man of any other country, to have been born upon.

“The public debt is a debt owing by the nation; the proprietor of stock is the creditor; and if all the property in the kingdom, the land only excepted, were wasted, the fair claim of the stockholder would remain, and the land would, both in justice and in law, be responsible for the debt. This I mention, that the landholder may see how immediately his interest is connected with the public credit. Let him understand, that the national debt is not a debt owing by government, but a debt owing by the nation; government being only the agent through whose hands the money borrowed for national purposes, as well as that paid to the national creditor, passes.

ART. X. *Regulations of Parochial Police, combined with the Military and Naval Armaments to produce the Energy and Security of the whole Nation, &c.* 12mo. 42 pages. Price 1s. Owen. 1797.

THIS small pamphlet is written with great ardour and energy; and evinces the possession, in it's author, of talents meet for the public service.

It's object is to inculcate the necessity, in the present eventful crisis, of arming the *whole community* for the protection of domestic tranquillity and order in parish districts. Our author thinks our greatest danger, in case of invasion, will arise from the idle and profligate part of the people, the servants and persons out of place, taking advantage of the flower of our youth having marched to the coast, and in their absence forming and executing schemes of plunder and devastation in the capital. He proves this to have been the source of all the internal calamities, under which the french nation has groaned from the commencement of the revolution.

Our author's plan invests the parish committee with large powers; but then he would provide against their mischievous operation, by it's being fairly elected by the inhabitants, and often changed.

We

We see much to admire in this plan, and seriously recommend the pamphlet to the public attention, hoping it is not the last effort the able author will exert, in the service of his country. We lament, however, that the present council is not likely to profit by this, or any other plans, for the public benefit.

From the following extract the reader will judge of the ability with which the pamphlet is written. P. 22.

'Here France furnishes a *warning*, but not an *example*. She sent her generous youth to resist the invading enemy, and left their aged parents and beloved families a prey to robbers, or victims to assassins. —She has appeared, throughout the revolution, a form without a trunk—of gigantic and tremendous force in her limbs and extremities, with a body wasted and torn into atoms by internal diseases.

'It is to this evil, the most destructive and afflicting that can befall human society, the attention of the people, and government of the country is required. Our generous youth may bravely meet the enemy on our shores, and may fall with satisfaction, and a sense of real glory, in the defence of their country: but in consequence of internal confusion, age, infirmity, infancy, the timid sensibility of their mothers, wives and daughters—in short, every thing valuable, estimable and dear, for which they fight and die, may be abandoned to the refuse of society organized into banditti, and pursuing a deliberate system of depredation, revenge and murder, under pretences of political or religious reform, assuming the language of wisdom and virtue, and professing the restoration of political equality, or the regeneration of the whole society.'

ART. XI. *Plan of Preparation against Invasion: proposed by Captain James Burney, of his Majesty's Navy. Second Edition, in which a material Objection to the Plan, as before printed, is considered and provided against.* Quarto. 12 pages. Price 6d. Robinsons. 1797.

WHATEVER be the improbability of any serious invasion, it is certainly the part of a wise administration to render the attempt so rash and desperate, by vigorous and formidable precautions, that the inhabitants may be relieved from those horrid apprehensions of desolation, which attach to the landing of a hostile army.

Captain Burney conceives it would be the most effectual security, to enrol all the males, between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five, capable of bearing arms, resident in London; in the counties near; likewise in the counties near the eastern and southern coast of the kingdom; and, if thought proper, those also resident in the counties near the sea-coast all round the island. These persons should be required to attend at some appointed place, one forenoon in the week during the first three months, unless in case of immediate danger, when more frequent attendance would be necessary, for the purpose of being embodied, regulated, and exercised. After the first three months, one forenoon in the month during the time of war, and once a year he thinks would be sufficient, during the time of peace. Another part of Mr. B.'s plan is, that the seamen of all his majesty's ships should be trained to small arms, in order that

that those belonging to ships in port might be landed in case of invasion: the use of small arms should be likewise taught to their men by the commanders of all merchant vessels, which should always be provided with necessary accoutrements.

The material objection, which had been urged against his plan, was the universality of martial law, which would ensue: to this objection he refers in his title page, and, in order to obviate it, proposes an exemption from such rigid execution as would be repugnant to the general feelings of the people. To obviate another objection, namely, the arming so many people, who may possibly be disaffected to the government, he would have different divisions exercised on different days; and the arms lodged under care of the military, either in barracks or some other military stations. As to the navy, it would be necessary to have a strong squadron in the Downs, another in Yarmouth Roads, another at St. Helen's, and a fourth cruising in the Channel.

We certainly are indebted to any man who proposes a plan for security against invasion; but must observe on that before us, that it is fundamentally objectionable from the circumstance of making the enrolment compulsory. Well may be urged the danger of distributing arms among people who are compelled to accept them. The most effectual security against invasion would be a reparation of political injuries, an alleviation of political burdens, and an universal diffusion of political liberty. That government, which secures the attachment of the people by acknowledging an unrestricted enjoyment of their rights, needs fear no foreign invasion: they would rise in a mass, and die to a man, in defence of it, and a desert would be the worthless prize of conquest.

ART. XII. *A Letter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Charlemont on the Tellograph, and on the Defence of Ireland.* By Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. F. R. S. and M. R. I. A. 8vo. 54 pages. Price 1s. Dublin printed. London reprinted. Johnson. 1797.

ON hearing that disturbances had broken out in Ireland, Mr. Edgeworth informs Lord Charlemont, that he returned to his native country, built, improved, and employed numerous tradesmen and labourers, as if the country had been in perfect security, and had the satisfaction to find, that none of his tenants had ever been convicted or accused of sedition.

‘When I heard of the french telegraph,’ adds he, p. 4, ‘a new object arose for my exertions. I recalled to my mind experiments that I had tried so long ago as the year 1767, when I had practised this species of aerial communication, and thinking that it might be peculiarly useful to this country, I constructed some machines, with which I conversed, in august 1794, between Pakenham Hall, (the seat of lord Longford) and Edgeworthstown. Finding my success equal to my expectations, I was advised by the present bishop of Ossory, who expected the arrival of lord Fitzwilliam, to shew my invention to some gentlemen, whose opinion would be attended to by administration. I naturally recurred to the speaker, with whom I had been bred up, and with whose friendship I had been
always

always honoured; he immediately understood and approved the contrivance, gave me the warmest encouragement; and, during the months of september, october, and november, he assisted me in trying experiments, and in constructing the plan of a vocabulary; a work of no small difficulty and labour.

The stay of lord Fitzwilliam in Ireland was too short for the adoption of Mr. E.'s plan; he, however, presented a memorial to his successor on may 30th, 1795, and soon after received an invitation from lord Carhampton, the commander in chief, to repair to Dublin; that nobleman, at the same time, holding out the hope, that his invention should meet with due attention and encouragement. This idea was further confirmed by Mr. Pelham, and Mr. E. actually sent one of his sons to England with a portable reconnoitering machine, for the duke of York.

After expending upwards of 500l. this ingenious gentleman at length discovered, that there was one grand and insurmountable objection to his scheme—it was not ‘a lucrative job, and did not gratify those in power by an opportunity of increasing patronage.

P. 29.—‘To him who is not in parliament, every step in public business is arduous.—When Lewis XIV. asked a lady, “how he could find the way to her bedchamber?”—She answered, “*par l’église*.”—The shortest way, perhaps, to the castle is through the house of commons. Independently of all interested or ambitious motives, there seems to be some strange delight in political corruption. There are men who imagine that there is something humorous, ingenuous, liberal, and graceful, in the frank avowal of venality.

‘I once applied to a gentleman (who had niched himself comfortably in a seat at a lucrative board) for his assistance upon a certain business then before parliament.—“Tell me honestly, my good friend,” said he, “is it a job? if it is, I will attend—if it is not, the thing must make its way by its merits.”

This is a well written pamphlet, and contains many just, but severe animadversions, on the management of public affairs, both in England and Ireland.

We shall here present our readers with a parallel between the characters of Messrs. Pitt and Fox.

P. 43.—‘Two rival statesmen divide the opinion of the public—opposite in temperament, education, system, and in whatever constitutes character. Shaded by the prophetic mantle of his father, there was in the first appearance of the one something of sublimity; splendid abilities, unusual sanctity of manners, bespoke and justified the confidence of his country. Raised at once to a high station, pressed by business that must be instantly performed, he was obliged to accept of assistance from men hackneyed in the ways of office, and by degrees was compelled to relinquish the favourite honourable resolutions of his youth.—He did not consort with men who marked his first deviations,—Courtiers are not always furnished with a moral plumb-rule to adjust the rectitude of a friend, though they sometimes apply it rather awkwardly to detect the obliquity of an enemy.—The unbounded confidence of the public tempted the frailty of his nature, and he scrupled not to impose a little upon the people, who had imposed so much upon themselves.

The

‘The other statesman had a character to make.—With the exuberant animation which usually accompanies genius, he ran the eccentric round of dissipation. But this to him was a short and salutary experiment: the same social nature at his first entrance upon his political career led him to tolerate, perhaps to imitate his companions: but his taste and judgment soon disdained the mean arts and sordid objects of inferior ambition. His moral character has been gradually formed by the conviction of his understanding, and perhaps not a single year has been added to his life, which has not added to his virtue.

‘The philosophic eye will perceive the influence of character not only in the conduct of affairs, but in the deliberation of the senate. When the melodious voice of the minister steals upon the ear, when he leads us “through many a bout of lengthened sweetness,” far away from the object which we sought, we feel as if our understandings had been convinced, when our senses only have been gratified. When he assumes the tone of argument, we admire the lucid order, the beautiful connexion, the high polish of his oration. It is true the parts are put together with dexterity: the joinings and defects in the materials are exquisitely concealed by workmanship. The varnish is so delicate, that no rude hand ventures to deface it. But when it yields to time, and reveals the wretched materials which it covered, we are amazed to see so much skill and ingenuity bestowed upon such a worthless fabric.

‘His opponent rises---We forget the orator, and sympathize with every feeling of the man. With the energy of a master-hand, he strikes out at every blow a distinct idea. He never spins the slight gossamer of sophistry, to catch the feeble and fluttering attention; but with herculean nerve, we see him forge out, link by link, the chain of demonstration. There is no pause, no respite, till the massive length is complete and rivetted round the mind.

‘In a commercial nation, it is natural to look more to the financier than to the statesman; but these are not times when fiscal abilities can save an empire. Ministers who have furnished their memories with statistical tables, and all the detail of diplomatic learning, are well qualified in times of tranquillity to trim the balance of Europe, and to calculate its nice librations: but in the hour of tempest and danger we abandon these refined speculations; we look for a statesman, who when he finds himself hurried on by the irresistible current of affairs, governs himself by a bolder prudence, and who, whilst the storm rages, dares to rely on the rapid suggestions of a vigorous and comprehensive mind.’

ART. XIII. *Sketch of the present State of the Army, with Reflections on the Mode of recruiting, reviewing the Military Spirit, and on the general Encouragement of the Officers and Soldiers.* 8vo. 54 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Owen. 1796.

THE author is inclined to conclude, from the melancholy state of the army, ‘that there is something still wanting, and that the right chord has not been struck to rouse the martial spirit of our countrymen.’ Many of the present race of soldiers are represented as ‘miserable objects,’ from neglected forces, and which

‘ which they seem to conceal with industry, as if they dreaded a cure !’

‘ What difficulty,’ adds he, ‘ to get them in motion, or to make them tolerably clean in some situations, particularly on board transports ! The attention, I may say the disgusting drudgery of officers in such situations, must be unremitting ; and what is mortifying, it is often attended with bad consequences. For in the general aversion to all action, and the multiplied pretences to avoid it, the officers cannot, in the first approaches of sickness, distinguish the feigned from the real ; and men are exposed to air and exercise, whose illness might be prevented by rest and warmth, if the report of their own feelings could be trusted. But such is the military spirit at present, that every sort of trick and low cunning is practised by the men to avoid doing any duty, to be left behind when the regiment goes abroad, or to get their discharge. A common, and very general one, is neglecting or irritating sores in the legs, till they are shocking to look at, the men themselves apparently objects of pity, and certainly a burthen upon their regiment ; cutting their hands on a field-day with their flints or bayonets, gives them the enviable privilege of being for sometime exempted from exercise ; and to render themselves unfit for service, they have been known to have shot off their fingers, when sentries, and their pieces loaded with ball, which from circumstances, and happening several times in a few nights, could not be the effect of accident.’

A short enlistment, exemption from flogging, and the hopes of preferment, are all here held out as an encouragement to the soldier, and the meliorations pointed out in this little pamphlet must, either in part, or in the whole, be adopted, before any great improvement can be expected to take place in our military establishment. s.

PROPHECY.

ART. XIV. *Illustrations of Prophecy: in the Course of which are elucidated many Predictions which occur in Isaiah, or Daniel, in the Writings of the Evangelists, or the Book of Revelation ; and which are thought to foretel, among other great Events, a Revolution in France, favourable to the Interests of Mankind, the Overthrow of the Papal Power, and of Ecclesiastical Tyranny, the Downfall of Civil Despotism, and the subsequent Melioration of the State of the World: together with a large Collection of Extracts interspersed through the Work, and taken from numerous Commentators ; and particularly from Joseph Mede, Vitringa, Dr. Thomas Goodwin, Dr. Henry Moore, Dr. John Owen, Dr. Cressener, Peter Jurieu, Brenius, Bishop Chandler, Sir Isaac Newton, Mr. William Lowth, Fleming, Bengelius, Daubuz, Whitby, Lowman, Bishop Newton, and Bishop Hard. In two Volumes. 8vo. 800 pages. Price 12s. in boards. London. [No bookseller's name, 1796.]*

THE manifest convenience of having the opinions and arguments of different authors, upon any subject of great extent and difficulty, brought together within a moderate compass, might be a sufficient recommendation of the work here presented to the public.

public. The author, if merely considered in the capacity of a compiler, will be entitled to thanks from those who are inclined to examine the authenticity, and inquire into the meaning of scripture prophecies, for having very industriously and judiciously collected passages, from the authors mentioned in the title and others, in which the evidence for the authenticity of the book of Revelation, the prophecy of Daniel, and other prophetic parts of Scripture is stated, on which the general rules for the interpretation of prophetic symbols are laid down, and in which explanations are given of particular prophecies. On these subjects a greater variety of matter is collected than is, perhaps, to be found in any other english work on scripture prophecies.

But the merit of this publication extends still further. While the author has compiled the opinions of others, he has not neglected to form an opinion of his own. He appears to have studied the prophecies of Scripture with diligent attention; and he has given interpretations of many of them, which are, at least, ingenious and new. To examine the grounds of these interpretations, would carry us far beyond our limit: we must content ourselves with informing our readers, that the drift of a considerable part of this writer's original observations is, to show, that scripture-prophecy foretels a revolution in France, and other great events particularly specified in the title.

The author stands forth as a decided advocate in the cause of civil and religious freedom. The idea of writing the present work was, he says, suggested to him by the use which he had seen made of "Fleming's Discourse on the Apocalypse," representing it as highly unfavourable to the french nation, and countenancing the idea of their conquest, if not of their destruction. The two first chapters of the work are employed in vindicating Mr. Fleming from this misrepresentation, and showing, that his words are hostile to tyrants, and foretel the downfall of the french monarchy. The *eleventh* chapter of Revelations is explained as referring to France; and it is maintained, that it predicts the destruction of civil and spiritual despotism, and particularly the abolition of titles, by the french revolution.

In a subsequent part of the work it is shown, that almost every kind of ecclesiastical usurpation was introduced, and almost every species of superstition encouraged, as early as the *fourth* century; and therefore, that the prediction of the man of sin ought not to be applied, exclusively, to the church of Rome, but referred, according to Mr. Evanfon's interpretation, to antichristian hierarchies in general. Observations are collected from various writers, to prove, that unequivocal marks of antichristianism are impressed, not only on the church of Rome, but on other national churches; and the bishops Newton and Hurd are adduced as examples of the unfavourable influence of ecclesiastical elevation. The author's remarks on those prophecies, which he understands to predict the destruction of all those governments in Europe which are oppressive and antichristian, close with the following reflections on one of the prophecies of Daniel.

p. 360.—‘ Whilst the hebrew prophet declares, that the ten-horned *beast* was slain, he adds of these other emblematic *beasts* (v. 12), yet *THEIR* lives were prolonged for a season and time. Does not this clause plainly enough intimate, that, after the arbitrary monarchies of Europe shall have been obliterated, the despotic governments of Asia and of Africa, though their existence will indeed be *prolonged for a time*, yet that they also will, at length, most assuredly fall? And does not reason herself teach us, that this will probably happen? Is it not to be expected, that political liberty will be progressive in its course; and that it will flourish on the continent, and among the islands, of Europe, before it is transplanted into the warmer climes of the old world, which are less favourable to its growth?

‘ Though North America stands at such a distance from the European continent, and consequently the changes which happen there must have a very diminished influence on this quarter of the globe; though it has gained far less by its revolution than almost any nation on that continent would have done, because it never bowed its neck under the yoke of despotism, or an accumulation of taxes, and never did an expensive court annoy its provinces, to serve as a rallying point to vice and corruption, and a center from which they might copiously flow; it nevertheless powerfully encouraged the authors of the french revolution during its commencement and prosecution, and threw a strong ray of light on the measures they were to adopt, and the principles they were to consecrate. As soon as France then, a nation of such populousness, ingenuity, and distinguished attainments, seated as it is in the very center of Europe, and possessing a language so generally studied, shall completely have baffled the efforts of the confederated princes; and, restored to internal order, shall begin to reap, in a season of tranquillity, those golden fruits, which are the natural growth of an equal government, representative in its construction, and founded on the rights of man; is it not to be expected, that its example will prove irresistible, and that in no long time it will be followed by the more enlightened of the european nations? The probability of events following each other in this train, statesmen and princes have not failed to discern and to dread; and they act accordingly.

‘ That the antichristian monarchies and aristocracies of the world may be demolished, reason instructs us to hope, as well on account of the oppressor as the oppressed. To raise men to a giddy height of unjust power and unmerited titular distinction, is to expose them to a series of moral dangers, of the most serious kind, and which they cannot reasonably be expected to surmount. Perceiving that their vanity will be indulged, their wants supplied, their desires anticipated, without exertion, without knowledge, without virtue; they commonly slide insensibly into the ignominious lap of indolence; and, dissipating their time in the company of the profligate, and in an insipid routine of amusements, yield themselves up to the tyranny of passions, alike injurious to society and to the individual. This subject has almost always been considered in much too narrow a point of view. That this

is only the commencing stage of our existence is a truth which ought permanently to impress our minds. It ought therefore to be an anxious subject of our enquiry, what is the state of society, and what is the species of government, which is best adapted, by its influence on morals, to fit and prepare men for a future world. Now those existing governments, which are founded on oppression, and trample on the rights of man, are so fatally operative in the extinction of light and virtue, that they are decidedly calculated to disqualify men for a state of future existence. Indeed when we advert to the general condition of mankind, distributed as they are, into those who tyrannize, and those who are the objects of tyranny; when we reflect, that a numerous and distinct class of vices are the natural growth of *each* of these situations; when we thence collect, that the great mass of human-kind appear, *in consequence of this*, in a great degree to be incapacitated for the elevated employments of heaven and the purity of its pleasures, the overthrow of all such governments cannot but strike the mind, as having a degree of importance, which it is not in the power of language to express, or of the human understanding to calculate. Hence also it appears (and it is an awful consideration), that he who is instrumental in perpetuating a corrupt and wicked government, is also instrumental in unfitting his fellow-men for the felicity of the celestial mansions, and in perhaps occasioning them to occupy, through all the successive stages of their future existence, a lower rank than that to which they would otherwise have attained.*

In a chapter on the dispersion of the jews are introduced some interesting particulars concerning certain remnants of the ten tribes of Israel, supposed to be still existing in Persia. P. 589.

* After an account of the afghans, inserted in the *Asiatic Researches*, the parent of that work, sir William Jones, who unites in his own person two very rare characters, that of an accomplished oriental linguist and a meritorious british inhabitant of Hindostan, adds, "This account of the afghans may lead to a very interesting discovery. We learn from Esdras*, that the ten tribes, after a wandering journey, came to a country called Arfareth, where we may suppose they settled. Now the afghans ARE SAID BY THE BEST PERSIAN HISTORIANS TO BE DESCENDED FROM THE JEWS; they have traditions among themselves of such a descent; and it is even asserted, that their families are distinguished by the names of jewish tribes, although, since their conversion to the islam, they studiously conceal their origin.

* B. II. ch. xiii. 41—50. Visionary and wild as many parts of the second book of Esdras certainly are, it nevertheless ascertains the antiquity of this tradition. It is, declares Bengelius, a matter admitted by the learned, that this book was written in the beginning of the second century (*Intr. to the Apoc. &c.* p. 285); and Basnage, speaking of the author of it, says (*Hist. of the Jews*, b. VI. c. 2, 4), 'we must place him at the end of the first, or beginning of the second, century.'

The

The *pustto* language, of which I have seen a dictionary, has a manifest resemblance to the chaldaic; and a considerable district under their dominion is called Hazareh, or Hazaret, which might easily have been changed into the word used by Esdras. I strongly recommend an inquiry into the literature and history of the afghans*."

"The title given to the piece, to which sir William Jones's observations are annexed, is *on the descent of the afghans from the jews*. It is translated from the persian by Mr. Vansittart; and the persian work is itself an abridgment of a more early performance, written in the *pustto* or afghan language, and entitled, *the secrets of the afghans*. It is from this persian abridgment that the following statements are taken. "The afghans, according to their own traditions, are the posterity of Melic Talut" (king Saul), and afghan, who had a military command under Solomon, was the grandson of Talut. Then follows an account of the war between the children of Israel and the amalekites, and various particulars, relative to the jewish monarchs, Saul and David, and the prophet Samuel. "The afghans are called Solaimani, either because they were formerly the subjects of Solomon, king of the jews, or because they inhabit the mountain of Solomon.—Their nation has produced many conquerors of provinces," and seven princes "of this race have sat upon the throne of Dehli."

"The order of ranks, which prevails among them, cannot but have operated in preserving a large part of them separate from those who are of a different origin. "They framed regulations," says the author of the persian abridgment, "dividing themselves into four classes.—The first is the *pure* class, consisting of those, whose fathers and mothers were afghans†." The afghans, Mr. Vansittart observes, have been subject to the kings of Persia‡, as well as to the princes of Hindostan.

‘ That

* See the *Asiatic Researches*, 4to. vol. II; or a smaller work, published by Nicol, entitled *Dissertations and miscellaneous Pieces, relating to the Hist. and Antiq. the Arts, Sciences, and Liter. of Asia* by Sir W. Jones, &c. 8vo. vol. II. p. 128.

† See the *Dissertations*, &c. p. 119—128. The afghans, says Mr. Hanway, "have an utter aversion against marrying their daughters to strangers." Hist. of the revolutions of Persia, vol. III. p. 43.

‡ At the beginning of the present century, the province of Kandahar, which the afghans inhabited, was subject to Persia. Oppressed and plundered in the most outrageous manner by the persian governor, and the licentious troops whom he commanded, the afghans in the year 1709 rebelled, and succeeded in erecting that province into a small but independent monarchy. In the year 1722 the afghans penetrated to the heart of the persian empire; and, having defeated an army of nearly 50,000 persians, and obtained possession of Ispahan, the prince of the afghans ascended the throne of Persia. In the year 1726 the porte having declared war against the afghan king of that country, the afghans defeated

‘That the ten tribes were transported into some of the provinces of the persian empire, is universally admitted *; and that they continued there for a considerable time, and were very numerous, cannot be doubted. Now as we know them to have been exposed in that empire, at different periods, to oppression and the severest calamities †; it certainly does seem reasonable to conclude, independently of any positive testimonies which may be alleged on the subject, that considerable numbers of them, in order to escape from the fury of persecution, would enter and inhabit one or both of the two adjoining countries of Tartary and India, where their settlement would be favoured by the facility with which revolutions were affected, and by the comparatively small power, which the princes of those countries, from the smallness of their territories, frequently possessed. That they would gradually be induced to corrupt the purity of the jewish worship, to embrace heathenism, and afterwards to acknowledge a belief in the divine mission of Mahomet, seems also extremely probable; powerfully led to it, as they would be, by motives of policy and the contagion of example, by ignorance of letters, and their total separation from their brethren in Turkey and in Europe.’

After several extracts from other writers, jewish and christian, on this subject, the author adds the following ingenious remark:—

r. 601.—‘With respect to the afghans, I shall only farther add, that *should* this conjecture relative to them hereafter *be* proved to be a fact, it would not be very difficult to account for its having lain so many centuries in concealment. The following circumstances would, perhaps, afford a solution of the difficulty. Till *very lately* the gaining of territory, the acquisition of riches, and the opportunity of living with profusion and splendor, are the objects which have *solely* occupied the minds of the europeans of Hindostan; and, in the pursuit of *these*, it must be admitted, they have discovered no want of eagerness, and no unnecessary scruples with respect to the means of obtaining them. Recent is the period when the literary treasures of Hindostan began to be sought after with any degree of activity; and small is the number of persons, who have applied to hindu and persic literature. The mountainous regions at the extremity of Hindostan, where was the proper seat of the afghans, intelligent and inquisitive europeans have scarcely visited at all: should a small number be found to have done this, they were very imperfectly acquainted with the ordinary language of the country: and of the pushto or afghan language europeans have scarcely had the slightest knowledge. Lastly, the afghans have kept their origin enveloped in studied obscurity.’

defeated an army of between 70 and 80,000 turks. But the afghans, in the year 1729, were defeated by the celebrated Kouli Khan, and expelled from Persia. For these facts see Hanway’s account of the revolutions in Persia, vol. III. p. 22—255; and vol. IV. p. 1—40.

* See bp. Newton, vol. I. p. 206, 207.

† See Basnage’s Hist. of the Jews.

In this chapter an entertaining account is introduced of false Messiahs, and other impostors, who have appeared among the jews.—In conclusion, the author discusses the subject of the millennium. He opposes the literal interpretation of the prophecy, and the opinion, that Christ will descend in person to reign upon earth, and explains it as foretelling a meliorated state of mankind, in which the fruits of labour will be more equitably distributed, and life will be protracted, without hazard of premature dissolution. The writer's concluding prediction is a delightful vision, which every friend to human nature must wish to see realized.

P. 753.—‘Of the industrious part of mankind, at present, only a small part receive an adequate and reasonable compensation for their labours. In rewarding the exertions of ingenuity or of diligence, no laws of proportion are observed, no rules of equity are attended to. In this respect, society will gradually assume a new aspect. Those of whom the prophet speaks are *not to labour in vain*, but they are to *wear out the works of their own hands*. Those who *build*, and those who *plant*, are alike to enjoy the benefit of their own industry. Mankind will mutually labour for each other's benefit, and to supply each other's wants. No longer will a decided majority of them, as is now the case in almost all the civilized countries of the globe, lead a life at once of indigence and of toil; whilst a few individuals, in every district, riot in luxury and in splendor, and, with systematic prodigality, consume upon themselves or their families the labours of hundreds and of thousands.’

P. 760.—‘Human life will rarely be endangered by the poisons of the mineral, vegetable, or animal kingdoms; malignity will not administer them; accident will seldom stumble upon them; and, when they do touch the skin, or enter the stomach, their fatal effects will generally be counteracted by the application of antidotes, which time has discovered to be little less than infallible. *Beasts of prey* will be extirpated; or they will be awed by the neighbourhood and by the power of man. The inhabitants of every city will sleep, unapprehensive of the dagger of the assassin; such as travel the public, and such as pursue the most private road, will alike be secure from the lawless assault of the robber; and those, who traverse the trackless ocean, will navigate their ships, and conduct their traffic, without recurring to any measures of defence against the desperate enterprizes of the pirate. Capital punishments will be annulled. Maxims of false honour will no longer give birth to duelling, nor despair to suicide. Men will not be sacrificed, as obstinate heretics, or as expiatory victims, at the suggestion of the bigot or the fanatic. From successive improvements in the structure and the management of ships; from a more complete and accurate knowledge of seas, and rocks, and winds; from the practical precautions suggested by the great advances, which will doubtless be made in electricity; as well as from the ideas, which will generally prevail of the high value to be set on human life, and the criminality of a wanton exposure of it to the hazard of destruction; a hope may not irrationally be entertained, that the fury of the tempest will be disarmed of half its force, that the lightning will

lose much of its terrors, and that in consequence, the relics of shipwrecked vessels will scarcely ever be cast even upon the most dangerous or the most commercial shores. The torch of civil dissension and of domestic treason will be extinguished; and the causes of the hostility of nations being annihilated, or their interfering interests being adjusted by mutual concession and amicable negotiation, no longer will thousands of the human race be collected together to slaughter each other upon the field of battle, or upon the bosom of the deep. Nor will a pacific behaviour be confined to those nations alone, which are entitled civilized. The various tribes of savages that inhabit the less frequented climes, having undergone a revolution in their manners and their situation, will relinquish the use of the arrow and the spear, the battle-ax and the scalping-knife. In the treatment of diseases, and in the cure of wounds, ignorance and inexperience will cease to be a fruitless source of the destruction of life; and no longer will men be swept away in crowds by those contagious disorders, which care and skill are capable of remedying. Nor will they prematurely destroy themselves by a course of debauchery, or by habits of intoxication.

'Sorrow and pain, also, in comparison of the ascendant they formerly had upon the globe, may be said to be excluded from it; for with the former things, which are passed away, with bad government and false religion, not only war, discord, and pestilence will, in a great degree, be banished from the world; but also those other evils which naturally flow from the same sources, sloth and ignorance, hypocrisy and persecution, superstition and infidelity, excessive poverty and intemperate labour.'

The work is written in an agreeable style: concerning the force of the writer's arguments, and the truth of his interpretations, we pronounce no judgment.

O. S.

MEDICINE.

ART. XV. *Medical Cases and Speculations; including Parts IV. and V. of Considerations on the Medicinal Powers, and the Production of Factitious Airs.* By Thomas Beddoes, M. D. and James Watt, Engineer. 8vo. 5s. sewed. Johnson. 1796.

CONSIDERING the various difficulties and obstacles that are constantly thrown in the way of every new attempt to improve and enlighten mankind, more would seem to have been accomplished in the introduction and application of pneumatic medicine than could have been expected, even by its warmest admirers. Much is unquestionably to be attributed to the uncommon industry, ingenuity, and abilities, of those who have been principally engaged in rendering it an object of public attention.

In examining the former parts of this interesting collection of what the editor has, with great modesty, termed speculations, we suggested what appeared to us to be the advantages that might reasonably be expected from a knowledge of the use of factitious airs in the practice of physic. In the additional parts contained in the present publication, we find the same zeal, perseverance, and
attention,

attention, that marked the former ones, and an equal importance of fact and observation.

The different objects of practitioners, and the opposition to innovation in medical science, are well characterized.

P. VII.—‘Medicine,’ says Dr. B. ‘is an art to which some look for health; others for a livelihood. Unless the public be sufficiently enlightened to controul those who exercise this art, the latter principle will encroach so as to obtain too large a share in determining its condition; and there will always be some danger, lest the advantage of the patient should be sacrificed to the interest, ease, or pride of the practitioner.’

‘From the days of Paracelsus, to the full establishment of the reputation of the peruvian bark, there subsisted a constant struggle between persons desirous of introducing new substances into medical use, and their opponents. Potentates and national councils are well known to have taken an eager part in the dispute. Physicians in possession of the public confidence, were almost invariably on the side of opposition; but very seldom from certain knowledge or rational belief of the unworthiness of this or that article to be admitted into the *Materia Medica*.’

On our increase in liberality in these respects he also acutely observes,

P. VIII.—‘Controversies of such a nature appear to be for ever laid asleep. When a new substance comes from the Antipodes, if it bring with it a passable character, there is now scarce a physician who will hesitate to receive it into his prescription, or an apothecary into his shop. Had the editor of these communications been content with advising the trial of *sal sodae* pills in the cases of paupers afflicted with calculus; of wood sorrel for scrophulous sores; and of bodies containing loosely combined oxygene for sea-scurvy, the most squeamish son of Hippocrates would never have felt himself scandalized at his proceedings.

‘To what is this advance in liberality to be ascribed? Doubtless, in part, to the increase of knowledge, and to that habitual reference of opinion to experiment, by which the most knowing are kept in modest remembrance of their ignorance. But I have sometimes suspected the agency of an auxiliary cause; and the pride of birth having yielded to the spirit of commerce, why may not the same spirit of commerce have contributed to tame the no less stubborn pride of useless erudition?’

‘That this sort of facility extends as far as the LOVE OF GAIN will allow, and very little further, I had sufficient reason to be convinced, long before I found myself in a situation to measure arguments with the enemies to investigation in medicine. If a profit can be got by furnishing or directing an article, what, among a generation, whose supreme good is gold—can be more in order, than that there should be at once persons ready to furnish and direct? But there may be more trouble than profit in furnishing the article, or in learning how and when to direct it. In such case, what again can be more in order, than for those who are too busy or too idle to take an interest in improvements, to decry it; though they may not choose to assign precisely their reason for so doing?’

In answer to the objections that have been made against him, on the score of his writings on this subject having too popular a cast, he says,

P. X.—‘The principles on which the trial of gasses in medicine ought to proceed, were perhaps not very accurately known to the senior part of the faculty; they were nearly as well understood out of the profession as in it: and the less analogy any method bears to those commonly employed, the more pains will be requisite to satisfy the scrupulous of its innocence. I have sometimes met with invalids ready to swallow, upon trust, in any quantity, medicines with which they were entirely unacquainted; but suspiciously inquisitive as soon as gasses were mentioned.

‘But these narrow reasons were not those which had most weight with me. I desired to be instrumental in diffusing a taste for the most useful species of knowledge, and in converting nations into HUMANE SOCIETIES. There is an art, not suspected by the multitude to lurk among possibilities, and never yet cultivated by any people, although its honorable title was usurped by a system of intercourse, once established among the french. This is the *art of living*; for whose reception men’s minds can only be prepared, by being familiarised with just ideas concerning animal nature; and whose precepts can issue only from the shrine of Hygeia.’

As it would be neither satisfactory nor useful to present the reader with a mutilated account of any of the cases detailed in the work before us, we shall content ourselves with making a few extracts from the editor’s remarks and reflections on them. On the nature and advantage of clinical observation, Dr. B.’s reflections are equally just and interesting.

P. 31.—‘All medical knowledge is undoubtedly founded upon the observation and comparison of cases. Nevertheless, reports of the most unimpeachable fidelity sometimes tend very little to advance the art, and not at all the science, of medicine. Let me suppose that a physician undertakes to institute an impartial comparison between the efficacy of errhines, of warmth externally, of æther, of arsenic, valerian, emetics, and other articles of the *Materia Medica*, in head-ache; and that he gives in numbers the result of an extensive experience. If the public were not beforehand in possession of a sufficient number of gross observations, which may be multiplied at very small expence of thought, the labours of our practitioner will shew that by trying these remedies one after another, we may hope sometimes to effect a cure. His figures also may afford some help in judging with which remedy to begin. This information has its value, and deserves to be thankfully accepted, till better can be had. But it belongs to science to sort facts, to detect their resemblance and discrepancy, to teach why one remedy succeeds better than another in two complaints of the same denomination, and why, in some instances, all fail. A few observations, arranged according to their natural affinities, are more valuable than an infinity of undistinguished facts; though collections of mere unanalysed facts, are often presented with the utmost good faith, and not seldom accepted with the utmost good nature, as the only guides to solid practice in medicine. Such authors and such readers, little
sensible

sensible perhaps of the advantage of discovering principles, are heard perpetually to decry speculation. But their disapprobation has small effect in retarding science.—The utility of just theory encourages successive attempts, and the difficulty of ascertaining causes is an excuse for failure.

On these grounds he explains various circumstances attending the respiration of different kinds of air in the different cases which have been previously described. These chiefly relate to palsy, epilepsy, melancholia, &c.

The remarks on the use of oxygene air in cases of asthma, spasmodic disorders, chlorosis, &c. are equally deserving of notice.

From those on the cure of catarrh, pulmonary hemorrhage, and consumption, many of which are pertinent and useful, we extract the following directions and cautions respecting the use of hydro-carbonate, &c. in the last.

P. 119.—‘From such reports, I infer,’ says the doctor, ‘only, that it may be proper *cautiously* to administer hydro-carbonate, or other factitious unrespirable air in consumption, two, three, or four times a day, till either some remedy of a different nature be discovered, or some better method of employing these substances be rendered practicable. I procured Mr. Greenwood’s observation on himself to enforce caution. The relaxation of the *sphincter vesicae*, and the universal resolution of the muscles, seem to confirm what has been suggested concerning the probable utility of hydro-carbonate in strangulated hernia. It ought also to be tried in tetanus. If advantage be taken of these accidents, I doubt not but the trouble of the present investigation will be compensated by collateral benefits, though the original purpose should not be attained. The only other example of a disagreeable effect produced upon a patient of my own, that has ever occurred to me from this class of airs, is the following. A person, far advanced in consumption, had his hydro-carbonate increased from one pint to two quarts. He took two quarts in the morning in bed without any unpleasant feelings. He took two quarts in the evening, also in bed; and, after sleeping about twenty minutes, awaked with a violent head-ache, succeeded by some delirium. His hectic fever ran higher than usual in the night: it was aggravated, I suppose, by the head-ache, which was doubtless owing to the hydro-carbonate. Next day, he was very little worse than usual, and afterwards better. The air was the same morning and evening.

‘I have occasionally seen good sleep from very moderate doses of hydro-carbonate. Miss S., daughter of Dr. S., constitutionally very feeble, and in the last stage of consumption, after taking a quart of hydro-carbonate, could sleep sixteen hours out of the twenty-four without medicine. She felt no head-ache or other inconvenience. This effect continued, with some abatement, for a week; when she went from the Hotwells. I have lately received an account of the similar operation of an over dose of hydro-carbonate. “A woman, aged —, had been afflicted with a cancerous ulcer for more than ten years, the pain of which deprived her of sleep almost completely; at least her sleep was neither sound nor refreshing. She was treated with oxygene, which had some good effects. I believe, hydro-

hydro-carbonate was also tried, of which, accidentally, she got one day a large dose, which brought on syncope and deliquium, which lasted a considerable time. When she recovered, she was put to bed, and slept sound many hours. Next day she said she had been in paradise, and that all the sleep she had had for ten years put together, did not amount to so much as she had had this last night, and the pain of the cancer continued easier throughout that day. The event of the case I have not been informed of, but believe there was no cure."

The candid practitioner will, no doubt, rejoice to find that the doctor's facts and reflections still lead him to expect that a method of treating consumption successfully may ultimately be attained.

Among the miscellaneous cases, as well as those of a surgical nature, the judicious inquirer will meet with a portion of useful matter.

The fifth part contains Mr. Watt's supplement to his description of the pneumatic apparatus. This is an extremely useful addition to those who have turned their attention to the preparation of factitious airs. The subject is unquestionably difficult to beginners, therefore required the able elucidation which it has here met with. The simplification of the apparatus, and the consequent reduction of price, are also considerations of great moment in the present stage of the business.

The editor's settlement of the account of facts, with his critiques, is too delicate a matter for us to meddle with.

In the appendixes, beside the ingenious suggestions of professor Mitchill respecting the gaseous oxyd of azote, or of nitrogene, and the effects it produces when generated in the stomach, inhaled into the lungs, and applied to the skin, there are many other facts and observations that cannot fail to interest the attention of the medical practitioner.

In introducing this work to the consideration of the reader, as the last of the series, the editor diffidently observes, that ' hitherto he has merely endeavoured to discover in nature and accident the vestige of a path, along which art may proceed to an end which she has never yet reached;' and that ' he is perfectly sensible that he has brought very little to bear.'

ART. XVI. *A Treatise on the Diseases of Children, with general Directions for the Management of Infants from the Birth.* By Michael Underwood, M. D. Licentiate in Midwifery of the Royal College of Physicians, in London, and Physician to the British Lying-in Hospital. 2 Vols. 8vo. The third edit. revised and enlarged. About 800 pages. Price 10s. 6d. in boards. Mathews. 1795.

THE former impressions of this work had made their appearance before the commencement of our review, and the present has been unusually delayed by accident. But as comprehending a class of diseases extremely numerous and important, it is certainly entitled to notice. That the disorders of children frequently require the particular attention of the medical practitioner, and are yet far from being fully understood, there cannot be much doubt. An attempt therefore to place the treatment of them in a clearer and more popular point of view, which

which are the main objects of this treatise, cannot be without a considerable share of utility. That either parents or nurses can by such publications become physicians, we are however well aware, is impossible, but by having better and more correct notions on these matters, they will at least be enabled to afford proper directions until an experienced practitioner can be called, which is sometimes of considerable importance; and, indeed, in many cases we can see no reason why a sensible parent should not order a dose of medicine as well as the apothecary.

Of the improvements in this edition the author speaks in the following manner. Vol. 1, Preface, p. xi.

‘ Besides the addition of more than twenty diseases, not noticed before, and some improvements, it is hoped, in the arrangement and description of others, the present edition contains enlarged *directions for the management of the nursery*, and a dissertation on the nature and properties of *human milk*, the result of various experiments, during several months; forming, as it is presumed, a suitable introduction to that part of the work.’

On the nature and the manner in which the work is executed, the doctor observes: P. 3.

‘ The most respectable authorities, however, have been consulted, a proper attention been paid to facts, and his best endeavours exerted to obviate the effects of that peculiar veil which is said to obscure infantile disorders. A practical arrangement of them has been studied, comprehending likewise the natural consecution of parts, and the order of time in which the complaints severally appear; that some conformity may be every where observed. Regard has also been had to their respective causes and symptoms, tending to elucidate their nature, and render their treatment more obvious than has been generally imagined.

‘ To their immediate diseases, is added an attention to some of the principal accidents and little injuries to which the earlier periods of childhood are peculiarly liable; and though such articles may, indeed, be very unimportant to some readers, it is presumed they will have their use, and may, possibly, prove no small satisfaction to others. And here it may not be improper to observe, that whatever merit former publications may possess, it may, nevertheless, with great propriety be remarked, that they either make a part of some large systematic work, the bulk of which must be foreign from the intentions of a tract of this kind, or else they are far too concise, and have omitted complaints of too much importance to be overlooked, as well as been necessarily silent on many, with which the authors themselves were unacquainted.’

The author’s descriptions of the disorders of infants are in general drawn up with much clearness and accuracy. But in his practice, though he frequently displays the knowledge and judgment of an able and experienced physician, in some instances he evidently yields too much to opinions that are now held in but little estimation.

An extract or two will sufficiently explain the utility of the work, and the manner in which it is executed. In treating of those convulsions to which infants are particularly subject, the author highly extols a remedy, which we must confess has often deceived our expectations, not only in these affections, but also in those of adults, where by some
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it has been much recommended. 'Such are the usual remedies,' says Dr. U, p. 175, 'to which recourse has been had for the idiopathic convulsion; but since I put out the former edition I have been led to make trial of musk; and from no small success, think I am warranted in strongly recommending it to the notice of physicians. And I am the rather led to this, because I conceive it to have been long out of repute as a remedy for children, and probably one that has never had a proper trial in their nervous affections; as in that case, we should expect it would have been noticed more particularly by the older writers.'

'In some of the worst cases, however, of long continued convulsions, and fits apparently truly epileptic, not to be attributed to the usual causes of infantile irritation; as well as where all the customary remedies have been previously and unsuccessfully tried, a free exhibition of musk has restored children to health. And this not only where the long continuance of the fits has led good physicians to pronounce them idiopathic; but where the convulsions have also induced total blindness, or otherwise deranged the faculties for several months.—At least, I may assert, that an immediate abatement of the fits has followed the exhibition of this medicine, and in the end, the removal of all its ill consequences.'

'But when the *idiopathic* convulsion attacks very young children, it generally terminates very soon, sometimes in ten minutes, and is, indeed, often fatal before any means can be made use of. I have, however, often imagined, that we are frequently mistaken in regard to such hasty deaths, and that when convulsions prove so suddenly fatal, they are more commonly *symptomatic*, and are occasioned much oftener than is suspected by over-feeding.—I have known some of the largest and finest infants I have ever seen, die suddenly in the month, immediately after the nurse had boasted of their having eaten three boats-full of victuals.'

The observations contained in the latter part of the above extract, every practitioner, who has had any experience of the disease, must know to be founded in fact. Nurses, as well as mothers, are continually committing mistakes in respect to the quantity of food that infants require. The rule which they too generally follow, that of giving them as much as they will take, is certainly a bad one.

On dentition, which is a troublesome and harassing process to young children, we meet with many useful directions and remedies, though but little novelty in either respect. p. 220.

'Difficult teething is to be treated nearly as other acute diseases with local inflammation. If the body is at all bound, some opening medicine should be administered, and it is to be observed, that even a considerable degree of looseness is useful; few children cutting their teeth so well as those whose bellies are at this time much more than commonly open. Diluting drinks are also very necessary, especially if the child does not suck; with a light food, in small quantities, and taken frequently. If much fever attends, the loss of a little blood, in some way, will be necessary; though children do not endure bleeding so well as they do other evacuations. If the propriety of bleeding with the lancet be doubted, a leech or two, as Harris advises, may be applied behind the ears, and is generally serviceable. Clysters are also very useful, especially if there be retention of urine, which will likewise

likewise call for the use of the warm-bath. Gentle diaphoretics are also serviceable, particularly of wine of antimony, or the antimonium tartarificatum, which besides opening the belly, often operate in this way: a blister should likewise be applied between the shoulders, especially if there be any disposition to fits. And, indeed, if stools do not afford some considerable relief, there should generally be some discharge from the skin; since a purging, and eruptions on the skin, when spontaneous, are the grand means of easy dentition. A little discharge should, therefore, be kept up behind the ears, by rubbing the parts with spanish flies, applying a thread as before directed, or putting on a small blister; which may be kept open. A burgundy-pitch plaister laid on the back will sometimes suffice, which should be renewed every ten days, till the symptoms disappear, or the teeth come into sight. Even before this period, light scarifications of the gums are very useful, by taking off the tension; or if the teeth are at all to be felt, lancing them, as it is called; the proper method of doing which will be enlarged upon below.

It is not for us, however, to follow the author through the whole course of the varying disorders of infancy, &c. It is sufficient to remark, that, on the plan which has been adopted, the work is ably executed. From the hands of Dr. U., the diseases of childhood have certainly received a more systematical arrangement than had been previously attempted, and the methods of treatment are rendered considerably more easy and familiar. That objections may be made to the popular tendency of this publication, by those who think that medical science should be confined to it's professors, is not, indeed, improbable: we, however, have no apprehensions on this head; mankind have considerably less to fear from too much, than too little information, and we see nothing that should interest them more than the knowledge of remedying those diseases, to which they and their offspring may be liable.

ART. XVII. *A Treatise on the Yellow Fever, as it appeared in the Island of Dominica, in the Years 1793-4-5-6: to which are added, Observations on the Bilious Remittent Fever, on Intermittents, Dysentery, and some other West India Diseases; also, the chemical Analysis and medical Properties of the hot mineral Waters in the same Island.* By James Clark, M. D. F. R. S. E. and Fellow of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh. 8vo. 168 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Murray and Highley. 1797.

THE frequent occurrence of this disease in tropical situations, of late, has led physicians to examine it with more particular attention. In the present tract, though we have some novelty of reasoning, the practice recommended by the author is pretty much the same as that which has been advised by other writers. We are carefully informed, however, that it is the result of great experience and extensive observation.

The history of the disease contains nothing of particular importance, or by which the practitioner can be much benefited. The symptoms that characterised it's accession were these:—p. 6.

'This fever sometimes begins with a slight rigor or chilly fit, rarely with shivering, succeeded by a violent head-ach and vomiting;

ing; but more frequently it comes on with lassitude, inclination to vomit, uneasiness at the pit of the stomach, and a severe pain in the back and forehead. The first attack is generally in the night, or towards morning; and very soon after, the eyes appear much inflamed, the face remarkably flushed, and an uncommon redness about the neck and breast succeeds. They cannot bear the light; but turn their faces from it, or cover their heads, and avoid it by every means.

‘The fever comes on generally without any previous indisposition, seizing the patient in a very sudden manner; but some complained of lassitude and head-ach the day before. The pulse seldom beats more than 90 in a minute; and the heat was never so great as it is in the hot fit of an intermittent. The sick had not much desire for drink, and the tongue was not foul or white. What was vomited up during the first twelve hours, was only the contents of the stomach before, or what had been drank after the first attack. Bile was seldom discharged till eighteen or twenty-four hours after the first seizure; but about that time or soon after, it became of a deep yellow colour, then green, and gradually darker, till at last the black vomit made its appearance; which happened in a few cases as early as in thirty-six hours, most commonly in forty-eight, in some not till the third or fourth day, and even as late as the fifth or sixth, although this occurred rarely.’

In the progress of the fever the author supposes, that there are particular *stages*, which he endeavours to distinguish by the symptoms. Hence the disease is divided into the *febrile*, the *middle*, and the *putrid* stages. The inutility of such attempts is however in some degree shown in the subsequent passage:—P. 16.

‘When the disease finished its course in seventy-two hours, the different stages followed one another in such a rapid manner, that it was scarcely possible to distinguish them. It was protracted in general to the fifth day, in some to the seventh, and in a few instances to the eighth or ninth, before death took place. In one patient the yellowness continued till the thirteenth day, and as he retained medicines and nourishment on his stomach, and a number of boils broke out on his face, head, and neck, we entertained hopes of his recovery; but the nurse having neglected to administer bark and nourishing cordials as directed, some of these boils became gangrenous, and he expired in a convulsion the fifteenth day of the disease.—In many this putrid tendency was so far advanced, before we were called to the sick, that no medicine or any application whatever seemed to have any power or effect in checking its progress towards a total dissolution.’

Dissection exhibited the following appearances.—P. 19.

‘A great quantity of the same kind of black viscous fluid was found in the stomach, that had been vomited up before death.—The gall bladder and the ducts were filled with black bile, of a ropy viscid consistence, and the liver seemed to be enlarged and *soft*, but not otherways apparently diseased; the spleen did not seem to be much affected.—The intestinal canal was filled with a viscid black stuff, of a thicker consistence than that which was found

found in the stomach, and very much resembled tar, or very thick meconium.'

Our author contends, that the disease in this island was neither imported nor infectious, but that it was produced from natural causes. He does not, however, deny it's becoming contagious in some degree afterwards; 'in some of the towns, ships, or other places, in proportion to the degree of concentration of the vitiated air in them.' Few will probably be disposed to believe the disorder to have been uninfectious, when they look to a former part of this treatise, and find that in three months more than a thousand inhabitants were swept away.

The views of Dr. C. in his plan of cure do not seem to be altogether consistent. He tells us, that the indications are the subduing of the fever by the most speedy means, and the preventing of the putrescent state that follows so rapidly after the febrile stage, or to oppose it's progress when begun, and at the same time to support the strength of the patient. For the first intention, we are not to employ bleeding at all, except at the very beginning of the disease, and in such patients as are not *seasoned* to the climate. But we must make use of another part of the antiphlogistic treatment very freely.—P. 26.

'Pediluvium and a purging clyster were generally first ordered, to moderate the violent determination to the head, while more powerful remedies were preparing. Purging was the chief means employed to remove the fever, but the stomach could seldom be brought to retain the common purgatives: and even when they were not vomited up, a triple dose was always necessary to procure sufficient evacuations by stool. Two drams of jalap were often administered by degrees, and although all retained on the stomach, this large quantity failed to operate sufficiently, and the little effect it produced was not till six or eight hours after it had been taken, whereby much time, which is so very precious in this disease, was lost. From frequent disappointments in this way, I was led to add calomel to the jalap, which was ordered to be made up in the following form:

℞ Pulv. jalapii. ℥ij.
Calomelan. pp^{ti} ℥j.
Ol. menthæ guttas iv.
Aquæ fontanæ. q. s. fiat massa
in pilulas xvi dividenda.

Of these pills six or eight were given as speedily as possible, with a cup full of cold mint or cinnamon tea, and two or three more repeated every hour till they operated. If they were thrown up, which sometimes happened, ten grains of calomel were formed into two pills, which were administered immediately, and repeated in four hours, if they had not operated plentifully before that time. The patients were allowed mint, basil, or cinnamon tea, or, in short, whatever weak diluents they relished most, for their common drink, except cold water; but they were always enjoined to drink very little at a time. Crem. tartar whey was very grateful to the sick, and was often used. After the purgative was supposed to have operated sufficiently,

sufficiently, if the head-ach was not relieved, a blister was applied to the neck, or over the occiput; and a perspiration was encouraged, by giving warm drinks when the vomiting was not very violent; three or four grains of calomel were given, in a pill, every four or six hours, to which sometimes opium was added, when the purging had a tendency to run to excess; in the following form:

R Calomelan. pptⁱ ʒi.
 Opii puri gr^a iv.
 Olei cinnamomi guttas iv.
 Aquæ fontanæ. q. s. fiat in pilulas
 N^o vi. capiat unam omni quarta
 vel sexta hora.

The use of these pills was continued during the whole of the febrile stage, and often for some days after.—These medicines seldom failed to remove the fever in twenty-four or thirty-six hours, if the vomiting was not so violent, that neither medicines nor drinks could be retained on the stomach, which sometimes happened.—In this case a blister was applied over the epigastric region, which generally checked the vomiting, and had a good effect when employed early in the disease. I found that blistering any other parts of the body than those mentioned above, answered no good purpose; that it served only to torture the patient, and was even frequently hurtful. Blistering was seldom employed, except when the vomiting could not be stopped otherwise, and never used after the febrile stage of the disease. This was the result of experience, for at first we tried them in the second stage, and found they answered no good purpose.'

Where there was little or no inclination to vomit, he added antimonials to the calomel, and exhibited them till they produced '*some effect*.' Half a scruple of the antimonial powder, with five grains of calomel repeated every second or third hour, we have no doubt would produce more than is generally understood by '*some effect*.' It is a dose more suitable to the views of the veterinary practitioner than those of the judicious physician.

The second intention was fulfilled by the common cordial antiseptic plan; and the means of prevention proceed upon the same principle as that of the cure.

In the third chapter, having previously given the history and method of treating the disease, we come to an inquiry concerning its remote causes. What induced the author to adopt this mode of arrangement we know not, but it is certainly not the most judicious.

Here the author forsakes the sober path of experience, and indulges in the wide field of theory and speculation. He tells us, p. 56, that 'by the excessive and long continued heat of the sun, the state of the atmosphere appears to be so much vitiated in all warm climates, that if some agent or means were not employed from time to time by nature to rectify it, these countries would become unfit for the residence of human beings. Thunder, heavy rains, and violent gales of wind, seem to be the agents for this purpose; which

which are the causes of restoring that due mixture of parts to the atmosphere, so indispensably necessary for the support of health.'

On the following unsatisfactory evidence he seems to rest his conclusions.—P. 57.

'It was remarked, after the arrival of such multitudes of people at Roseau, at the time when this fever had begun to rage with violence, that the air had a flat kind of smell, and that people soon became faintish in it, on using even very moderate exercise. This induced me to make trial of the air, by Mr. Scheele's simple apparatus, not having a proper eudiometer. The purity of the air is perhaps ascertained more accurately in this way, than it can be by the nitrous gas, which depends so much upon a variety of circumstances in the separation of it from the acid of nitre. I filled, at different times, gallipots with liver of sulphur, and also with iron filings and flower of sulphur well mixed and moistened, and put these upon a stand under a glass vessel, which was placed on a stool in a pail of water. The glass vessel was marked and divided on the outside, and allowance being made for the space that the gallipot occupied, the water rose only one-fifth in the glass vessel, after standing twenty-four hours. When the disease abated, it rose near one-fourth; and upon many trials afterwards, when the place became more healthy, the water never rose above one-fourth, which makes about twenty-five parts of vital air that was taken up, but perhaps it was not entirely absorbed.'

In another passage the author brings the whole of his theory to view; but in this the intelligent physician will readily perceive other powerful causes acting, beside those on which the doctor's theory principally hinges.—P. 61.

'This derangement of the component parts of the atmosphere was probably effected by the strong light and intense heat of the sun having disengaged, or formed some combination with its vital part, or a certain portion of it, which being so united and rarified, would rise far above that stratum of air, in which we, in lower situations, breathe, leaving the mephitic or heavier part near to the surface of the earth. The loss of a small portion of vital air, would render this lower stratum very unfit for respiration, and of course very unwholesome to live in.—The atmosphere of this town became probably vitiated in this manner by degrees, and therefore did not affect the health of the inhabitants either suddenly, or very considerably. The common remittent fever, dysentery, and other bilious complaints, had, however, begun to show themselves, previous to the appearance of the yellow fever.

'The air already thus deranged, was, by the sudden arrival of a number of persons greatly exhausted, and unprovided with changes of cloathing, and also crowded together in an extraordinary manner, so contaminated with mephitic exhalations, and exalted to such a pitch of malignancy, that all who had been accustomed to breathe a purer air, viz. the europeans, americans, those from high situations in the mountains, as well as the emigrants, who, as mentioned before, were predisposed by a multiplicity of causes, would all be readily and greatly affected by it. If the constitution is able to resist the first attacks of the common bilious remittent fever, occasioned by

residing in the neighbourhood of marshy places, experience has shown us that by habit the baneful influence of these mephitic vapours will be entirely overcome, and that such persons having escaped some attacks of this kind, may continue to live in such an atmosphere, and enjoy as good health, as people in general do, in West India towns. But the animal œconomy is not only influenced by habit in all its parts, but it has also a power of conformity to almost any change, either of increase or decrease of nourishment, or of labour, as well as of rest, confinement, want of sleep, &c. &c. as it has also of breathing a foul unwholesome air with little apparent injury to health, provided any or all of these variations or states of life, are brought about gradually. The direction of our ideas, and the powers of thinking and acting, are in all cases influenced by custom. For these reasons, probably, newcomers are speedily attacked with this fever after their arrival, even in places where it does not prevail, and this gives it so much the appearance of an infectious disease, where it has already broke out.

Having put our readers in possession of Dr. C.'s practical and theoretical principles, we shall leave them to appreciate both in their own way.

The author has added a few cursory remarks on several other disorders that frequently occur in tropical situations: but in which we do not meet with any thing new or particularly valuable. The analysis of the hot mineral waters in the island of Dominica seems to have been made with judgment. From Mr. Brande's experiments on the *cinchona brachycarpa* no satisfactory conclusions can be drawn.

ART. XVIII. *A Pocket Conspectus of the New London and Edinburgh Pharmacopœias; wherein the Virtues, Uses, and Doses, of the several Articles and Preparations contained in those Works, are concisely stated, their Pronunciation as to Quantity is distinctly marked, and a Variety of other Particulars respecting them given, calculated more especially for the Use of junior Practitioners.* By Robert Graves, M.D. of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Member of the Medical Societies of London and Edinburgh; &c. &c. 12mo. 112 pages. Price 3s. sewed. Sherborne, Cruttwell; London, Murray and Highley. 1796.

THIS conspectus seems to partake both of the nature of a dictionary and pharmacopœia, and is intended, as the author informs us, to direct the steps of the young and inexperienced physician. So many publications of this kind issue from the press, that it would hardly be supposed a practitioner could either commit a mistake, or be at a loss for a prescription; yet, upon examination, we are fearful it would turn out that both occur too frequently. Dr. G. has however in this short work endeavoured to discharge an useful duty, and in no contemptible manner. Yet indeed, small as this performance is, it might perhaps have been rendered still smaller without any diminution of its utility, by a judicious pruning and expulsion of inefficacious and unnecessary articles, such for instance as *hypericum*, *lyssopus*, *ichthyocolla*, &c. The
really

really valuable articles of the *materia medica* may, we believe, be comprized in a narrow compass; and we see no advantage in the introduction of such as have been found useless, since they only tend to confound and embarrass the practitioner. For the purpose of affording the reader an opportunity of judging of the nature of this pharmacopœia, we select the subsequent passage.

P. 20.—‘*Cinchona*, (æ f.) *cortex*. (*Vulgo*, *cortex peruvianus*.) Tonic, astringent, stomachic, gr. xv ad ʒj, or more. Should it excite vomiting, exhibit it in wine; if oppression at stomach, join with it an aromatic; if purging, opium. See *decoct. extr. & tinct.* For making a cold infusion with magnesia, Dr. Skeete recommends as follows:—Bark powder ʒfs, calcined magnesia ʒj, rub them together for fifteen minutes with a little water so as to form a paste, then add water ʒix gradually; infuse half an hour, shaking the vessel frequently, and filter through paper.’

A. R.

PHILOSOPHY.

ART. XIX. *The Enquirer. Reflections on Education, Manners, and Literature. In a Series of Essays.* By William Godwin. 8vo. 481 pages. Price 7s. 6d. in boards. Robinsons. 1797.

THE most rare, and, under the direction of reason, the most excellent quality in a writer, is originality. Many people can make books from materials already furnished; but there are few who possess the power of creating the matter for a book, from the unassisted efforts of their own genius. In works of fancy, new production appears with the greatest brilliancy, and most irresistibly captivates applause: in philosophy, however, it is most important, because most likely to be useful.

Mr. Godwin has, unquestionably, the merit of being an original thinker. Perhaps few authors have produced so large a work as his ‘*Political Justice*,’ with fewer supplies from foreign sources. Whatever different readers may be disposed to think of the solidity of some of his speculations, it will, we believe, be generally allowed, that he has formed a habit of close and deep reflection; and that he is capable of exhibiting to the world, in a masterly way, a connected chain of thoughts. This plan was pursued with great success in his former work; in which a few simple principles are developed, applied to a number of points, and followed into a variety of inferences, in a manner which entitles the treatise to the name of a system.

In the present publication Mr. G. pursues a different method. The less ostentatious, but safer mode of investigating truth, by a continual appeal to experiment and actual observation, is adopted in these essays; which, though not altogether independent of each other, are not digested in a systematic form. Their relation does not so much arise from arrangement, as from the leading principles, and general views, to which they all, more or less, refer, and of which the author seldom loses sight. If the appeal here made to experience have rendered this performance less ex-

tric than the former, it will be found to contain much new, as well as useful matter, expressed with the author's accustomed correctness and energy.

The work is divided into two parts. The first part, though not a regular treatise on education, chiefly adverts to that most interesting subject; and offers to the reader's consideration some singularities perhaps—but many things, which may well deserve the attention of parents and preceptors.

A very important idea is suggested, and well illustrated, in the first essay, that one of the principal ends of education is, to awaken the mind. To excite a desire of knowledge, and stimulate energy of pursuit, is to lay the foundation of excellence.

P. 5.—‘It seems probable,’ says Mr. G., ‘that early instruction is a thing, in itself considered, of very inferior value. Many of those things which we learn in our youth, it is necessary, if we would well understand, that we should learn over again in our riper years. Many things that, in the dark and unapprehensive period of youth, are attained with infinite labour, may, by a ripe and judicious understanding, be acquired with an effort inexpressibly inferior. He who should affirm, that the true object of juvenile education was to teach no one thing in particular, but to provide against the age of five and twenty a mind well regulated, active, and prepared to learn, would certainly not obtrude upon us the absurdest of paradoxes.

‘The purpose therefore of early instruction is not absolute. It is of less importance, generally speaking, that a child should acquire this or that species of knowledge, than that, through the medium of instruction, he should acquire habits of intellectual activity. It is not so much for the direct consideration of what he learns, that his mind must not be suffered to lie idle. The preceptor in this respect is like the incloser of uncultivated land; his first crops are not valued for their intrinsic excellence; they are sown that the land may be brought into order. The springs of the mind, like the joints of the body, are apt to grow stiff for want of employment. They must be exercised in various directions and with unabating perseverance. In a word, the first lesson of a judicious education is, learn to think, to discriminate, to remember, and to enquire.’

Though we perceive the force of these remarks, we must think the assertion too general: it is a great object to awaken the mind; but it is also a great object to inform and enlighten it; and it cannot be a matter of indifference, whether the mind, in its initiatory exercises be occupied upon things in themselves of little value, or upon things capable afterwards of frequent application to useful purposes in life.

The subject of the second essay is ‘the utility of talents,’ in contradiction of the notion sometimes entertained, that a lad may have too much capacity. Knowledge must be valuable: great talents are the instruments of great usefulness, and of great virtues. Human virtues without discrimination are no virtues: if it be better to be a man than a brute, it is better to be a man with talents,

talents, than a man without.—The sentiment is happily illustrated.

‘The sources of genius,’ are examined in the third and fourth essays. Mr. G. does not adopt the notion of the original equality of minds, but imputes the intellectual differences of men, in part, to some particularity of organic structure, or some superinduced corporeal properties, which may descend from father to son; and admits that complexion, features, diseases, stature, age, and temper, may be born with a man. The principal source of eminent genius he finds, however, in the superiour strength of excitement which some minds experience. He conceives genius to be, in the first instance, nothing more, than a spirit of prying observation and incessant curiosity, and, though it is best excited in childhood, he is of opinion, that it may be produced, or lost, in later years. Circumstances, he remarks, determine our pursuits, and these pursuits generate talents, without supposing any thing mysterious in the case of men of genius. The following observations on this subject are particularly striking.

P. 26.—‘If a man produce a work of uncommon talents, it is immediately supposed that he has been through life an extraordinary creature, that the stamp of divinity was upon him, that a circle of glory, invisible to profaner eyes, surrounded his head, and that every accent he breathed contained an indication of his elevated destiny.

‘It is no such thing.

‘When a man writes a book of methodical investigation, he does not write because he understands the subject, but he understands the subject because he has written. He was an uninstructed tyro, exposed to a thousand foolish and miserable mistakes, when he began his work, compared with the degree of proficiency to which he has attained, when he has finished it.

‘He who is now an eminent philosopher or a sublime poet, was formerly neither the one nor the other. Many a man has been overtaken by a premature death, and left nothing behind him but compositions worthy of ridicule and contempt, who, if he had lived, would perhaps have risen to the highest literary eminence. If we could examine the school-exercises of men who have afterwards done honour to mankind, we should often find them inferior to those of their ordinary competitors. If we could dive into the port-folios of their early youth, we should meet with abundant matter for laughter at their senseless incongruities, and for contemptuous astonishment.

‘There is no “divinity that hedges” the man of genius. There is no guardian spirit that accompanies him through life. If you tell me that you are one of those who are qualified to instruct and guide mankind, it may be that I admit it; but I may reasonably ask, When did you become so, and how long has this been your character?

‘There is no man knows better than the man of talents, that he was a fool: for there is no man that finds in the records of his memory such astonishing disparities to contrast with each other. He can recollect up to what period he was jejune, and

up to what period he was dull. He can call to mind the innumerable errors of speculation he has committed, that would almost disgrace an idiot. His life divides itself in his conception into distinct periods, and he has said to himself ten times in its course, From such a time I began to live; the mass of what went before, was too poor to be recollected with complacency. In reality each of these stages was an improvement upon that which went before; and it is perhaps only at the last of them that he became, what the ignorant vulgar supposed he was from the moment of his birth.

The fifth essay treats on 'An early taste for reading.' Reading Mr. G. considers as the best means of generating a habit of attention and inquiry, and of vigorous intellectual exertion; but remarks, that, in order to produce these effects, the taste for reading must commence early, and must be exercised freely. In this essay is introduced, without any peculiar reference to the subject of reading, a beautiful description of the different ways in which the man of talent, and the man without, are employed in the same circumstances.

P. 31.—'They are obliged, let us suppose, to walk from Temple-Bar to Hyde-Park-Corner. The dull man goes straight forward; he has so many furlongs to traverse. He observes if he meets any of his acquaintance: he enquires respecting their health and their family. He glances perhaps the shops as he passes; he admires the fashion of a buckle, and the metal of a tea-urn. If he experiences any flights of fancy, they are of a short extent; of the same nature as the flights of a forest-bird, clipped of his wings, and condemned to pass the rest of his life in a farm-yard. On the other hand the man of talents gives full scope to his imagination. He laughs and cries. Unindebted to the suggestions of surrounding objects, his whole soul is employed. He enters into nice calculations; he digests sagacious reasonings. In imagination he declaims or describes, impressed with the deepest sympathy, or elevated to the loftiest rapture. He makes a thousand new and admirable combinations. He passes through a thousand imaginary scenes, tries his courage, tasks his ingenuity, and thus becomes gradually prepared to meet almost any of the many-coloured events of human life. He consults by the aid of memory the books he has read, and projects others for the future instruction and delight of mankind. If he observe the passengers, he reads their countenances, conjectures their past history, and forms a superficial notion of their wisdom or folly, their virtue or vice, their satisfaction or misery. If he observe the scenes that occur, it is with the eye of a connoisseur or an artist. Every object is capable of suggesting to him a volume of reflections. The time of these two persons in one respect resembles; it has brought them both to Hyde-Park-Corner. In almost every other respect it is dissimilar.'

The utility of 'the study of the classics,' is maintained in the *sixth* essay, with great ingenuity, and novelty of argument. A presumption in favour of this study is drawn from the history of its rise in the fifteenth century, when learned men were chiefly employed

employed in rescuing from oblivion, editing, translating, and illustrating the writings of the ancients, and herein laid the foundation of all the knowledge, wisdom, and taste of succeeding ages. In abandoning the study of the classics, should we not, Mr. G. asks, remove the foundations of intellect, and sacrifice intellect itself? He, however, admits, that this argument is not strictly logical, and defends the study of the classics chiefly on the grounds of the uncommon excellence of the ancient, particularly the roman authors, not to be transfused into a translation; the pure models of virtue which they exhibit; and the intellectual improvement to be derived, from comparing one language with another, and detecting the different shades of meaning through the various inflections and combinations of words. This latter argument is diffusely amplified, and forcibly urged; but, with a failure of precision not often found in Mr. G.'s writings, the argument is given under three or four different heads, while, in fact, it is still one and the same. The propriety of learning languages in early life, rather than at a later period, is well argued from the difficulty of teaching science at that period; but we are of opinion, that the practice of giving classical learning to children destined to ordinary occupations is not satisfactorily supported; for, though some benefit may accrue to such children from attending a grammar school, their time may be more advantageously occupied in acquiring information on topics of general utility.

The much disputed question concerning public and private education is discussed in the *seventh* essay. The advantages of each are compared; and the preference, on the whole, given to public schools; chiefly on account of the excitement they afford, the vigour of mind they produce, and the preparation they make for active life. Mr. G. thinks, however, that an adventurous philosophy would dismiss the present modes of education altogether, and introduce others totally dissimilar.

A curious inquiry occupies the *eighth* essay: whether youth be the happiest period of life. The question is confidently decided in the negative; and it is asserted, that the pains of youth are more frequent and galling, and it's pleasures are comparatively slight and worthless. This essay is written with energy, but is not free from extravagance and partiality; to say, that 'the condition of a negro-slave in the West Indies is in many respects preferable to that of the youthful son of a free-born european,' is certainly asserting too much: and the pleasures of sense, fancy, and affection, and above all, the peculiar pleasure arising from novelty, are left unnoticed, or are undervalued, in the estimate. We do not understand Mr. G's meaning, when, in painting the wretchedness of terrestrial existence he says,

P. 72.—'We cannot move a limb without the risk of destroying animal life, and, which is worse, producing animal torture. We cannot exist without generating evil. The more active and earnest we are, the more mischief shall we effect. The wisest legislator, the most admirable and exemplary author, has probably, by his errors, occasioned a greater sum of private misery, than

ever flowed from the agency of any supine and torpid, however worthless individual.'

If this be true, what encouragement have authors to write, or philosophers to attempt to mend the world?

The *ninth* essay pursues the important subject of the best method of communicating knowledge. Resuming his former idea, that the object of education is not so much to teach, as to provide, against the age of five and twenty, a mind well regulated, active, and prepared to learn; the author proposes, as the most advantageous mode of education, that young people should become their own instructors. No compulsion should be exercised; all the labours of study should be voluntary, arising from the desire of knowledge; and the business of the master should be, first, to give the pupil a motive to learn, and then, to smooth his path, by solving his difficulties, and giving him assistance, whenever he desires it. According to this method, the pupil is to go first, and the master to follow. From this project Mr. G. expects many advantages; such as, freedom from constraint; the strengthening of the judgment by continual exercise; and the acquisition of a habit of activity, and a love of literature: he seems not, however, to be fully aware of the difficulty of carrying it into effect; or to have sufficiently considered the necessity of teaching young people branches of knowledge, the uses of which are remote, and the value of which, consequently, cannot be *felt* by the young mind, as a motive sufficiently powerful to overcome the immediate desire of bodily exercise and pastime. The chapter is evidently the result of deep reflexion, and is well entitled to attention: it concludes with the following striking portrait of a pedagogue.

p. 84.—'Nothing can be more pitiable than the condition of the instructor in the present modes of education. He is the worst of slaves. He is consigned to the severest of imprisonments. He is condemned to be perpetually engaged in handling and re-handling the foundations of science. Like the unfortunate wretch upon whom the lot has fallen in a city reduced to extremities, he is destroyed, that others may live. Among all the hardships he is compelled to suffer, he endeavours to console himself with the recollection that his office is useful and patriotic. But even this consolation is a slender one. He is regarded as a tyrant by those under his jurisdiction, and he is a tyrant. He mars their pleasures. He appoints to each his portion of loathed labour. He watches their irregularities and their errors. He is accustomed to speak to them in tones of dictation and censure. He is the beadle to chastise their follies. He lives alone in the midst of a multitude. His manners, even when he goes into the world, are spoiled with the precision of pedantry and the insolence of despotism. His usefulness and his patriotism therefore, have some resemblance to those of a chimney-sweeper and a scavenger, who, if their existence is of any benefit to mankind, are however rather tolerated in the world, than thought entitled to the testimonies of our gratitude and esteem.'

The title of the *tenth* essay is, 'of cohabitation:' its purport is, to expose the inconveniences arising, in education, from the familiarity

familiarity necessarily produced by the master and pupil dwelling together under the same roof. This circumstance is represented as the cause of despotic tyranny on the one part, and contempt or aversion on the other. Hints are given of general speculations on the subject of cohabitation, which we should be much inclined to controvert, as destructive of affection and social happiness; but they are not pursued.

'Reasoning and contention' are, in the *eleventh essay*, considered in reference to education. The practice of seeming to reason with children, without giving them a chance of victory, is strongly reprobated, as destructive of independence of spirit, and tending to produce a contentious and quarrelsome temper. In the necessary exercise of authority, it is justly remarked, that parents should avoid asperity, and be careful not to add insulting familiarity, or unnecessary contention, to the indispensable assertion of superiority. This is a short, but very judicious and useful essay.

In the *twelfth*, the mischievous consequences of 'Deception' in education are forcibly represented. The subject is considered with respect to the vulgar methods of deceiving children by false threats or pretences; and with respect to the practice of teaching lessons of morality by rote, without appealing to the understanding and heart. Rousseau's system of education is censured as a series of tricks, a puppetshow exhibition, of which the master holds the wires in secret: his treatise, however, is acknowledged to contain many valuable hints on education. The importance of openness and sincerity in education is beautifully illustrated in the following passage.

p. 108.—'There can be no one thing of higher importance in the education of youth, than the inspiring them with frankness. What sort of an idea must we form to ourselves of a young person, who regards his parent or instructor as a secret enemy or as an austere censor, and who is solicitous, as much as possible, to withdraw all his actions and thoughts from his observation? What sort of education must that be, where the thing pressed by the youth upon his confidant with the most earnest importunity is, Do not let my father know any thing about it? It is worthy of observation, how early some children contract a cunning eye, a look of care and reserve, and all the hollow and hypocritical tricks and gestures, by which the persons who have the care of them are to be deceived and put upon a wrong scent.

'The child that any reasonable person would wish to call his own or choose for the object of his attachment, is a child whose countenance is open and erect. Upon his front sit fearless confidence and unbroken hilarity. There are no wrinkles in his visage and no untimely cares. His limbs, free and unfettered, move as his heart prompts him, and with a grace and agility infinitely more winning than those of the most skilful dancer. Upon the slightest encouragement, he leaps into the arms of every thing that bears a human form. He welcomes his parent returning from a short absence, with a bounding heart. He is eager to tell the little story of his joys and adventures. There is

is something in the very sound of his voice, full, firm, mellow, fraught with life and sensibility; at the hearing of which my bosom rises, and my eyes are lighted up. He sympathises with sickness and sorrow, not in a jargon purposely contrived to cajole the sufferer, but in a vein of unaffected tenderness. When he addresses me, it is not with infantine airs and in an undecided style, but in a manner that shows him fearless and collected, full of good sense, of prompt judgment, and appropriate phraseology. All his actions have a meaning; he combines the guilelessness of undesigning innocence with the manliness of maturer years.

It is not necessary to contrast this character with that of a child of an opposite description, to demonstrate its excellence. With how ill a grace do cares and policy sit upon the countenance of an infant? How mortifying a spectacle, to observe his coldness, his timidity, the falseness of his eye and the perfidy of his wiles! It is too much, to drive the newly arrived stranger from human society, to inspire him with a solitary and self-centred spirit, and to teach him to fear an enemy, before he has known a friend!

'Manly treatment and behaviour' form the subject of the *thirteenth* essay. While the author justly disapproves of premature manliness in children, he with equal justice censures that mode of education, which teaches an infantine jargon, and takes no pains to unfold the man. The manner in which the man should by degrees be grafted upon the child is admirably described: and the medium between the extremes, into which parents are in this respect apt to run, is pointed out with much good sense and correct observation. We could with pleasure transcribe this essay; but we must content ourselves with recommending it to the particular attention of parents.

The *fourteenth* essay attempts the solution of the important problem concerning the best method 'of obtaining the confidence' of young persons. The importance of doing this, in order to give the parent or preceptor sufficient power, by means of sympathy, over the mind of the child or pupil, is illustrated; and open, easy, inartificial conversation and conduct are recommended as the best means of accomplishing this end.

'Choice in reading' is in the *fifteenth* essay treated with particular reference to children and young persons. Mr. G. condemns the inquisitorial practice of prohibiting books, as the erection of a wall of separation between children and adults; as the exercise of a kind of despotism peculiarly grating to a generous mind; and as instituting a trial of skill between the parent and child, of the most pernicious tendency. The remarks in this essay, on the regard to be paid to the tendency of a work, are new and striking, but perhaps not sufficiently guarded: our readers may judge for themselves from the following extract.

P. 137.—'From the distinctions here laid down it seems to follow, that the moral of a work is a point of very subordinate consideration, and that the only thing worthy of much attention is the tendency. It appears not unlikely that, in some cases, a work may be fairly susceptible of no moral inference, or none but

but a bad one, and yet may have a tendency in a high degree salutary and advantageous. The principal tendency of a work, to make use of a well known distinction, may be either intellectual or moral, to increase the powers of the understanding, or to mend the disposition of the heart. These considerations are probably calculated to moderate our censures, against many of the authors whose morality we are accustomed to arraign. A bad moral to a work, is a very equivocal proof of a bad tendency. To ascertain the tendency of any work is a point of great difficulty. The most that the most perfect wisdom can do, is to secure the benefit of the majority of readers. It is by no means impossible, that the books most pernicious in their effects that ever were produced, were written with intentions uncommonly elevated and pure.

The intellectual tendency of any book is perhaps a consideration of much greater importance, than its direct moral tendency. *Gilblas* is a book not very pure in its moral tendency; its subject is the successes and good fortune of a kind of sharper, at least of a man not much fettered and burthened with the strictness of his principles; its scenes are a tissue of knavery and profligacy, touched with a light and exquisite pencil. *Shakespeare* is a writer by no means anxious about his moral. He seems almost indifferent concerning virtue and vice, and takes up with either as it falls in his way. It would be an instructive enquiry to consider what sort of devastation we should commit in our libraries, if we were to pronounce upon the volumes by their moral, or even by their direct moral tendency. Hundreds of those works that have been the adoration of ages, upon which the man of genius and taste feeds with an uncloyed appetite, from which he derives sense, and power, and discernment, and refinement, and activity, and vigour, would be consigned to the flames for their transgressions, or to the lumber-room for their neutrality. While our choicest favours and our first attention would often be bestowed upon authors, who have no other characteristic attribute but that of the torpedo, and the principal tendency of whose literature is to drive all literature and talent out of the world.

If we suffer our minds to dwell upon the comparative merit of authors, if we free ourselves from the prejudices of the nursery, and examine the question in the liberal spirit of scholars and philosophers, we shall not long hesitate where to bestow our loudest approbation. The principal praise is certainly due to those authors, who have a talent to "create a soul under the ribs of death;" whose composition is fraught with irresistible enchantment; who pour their whole souls into mine, and raise me as it were to the seventh heaven; who furnish me with "food for contemplation even to madness;" who raise my ambition, expand my faculties, invigorate my resolutions, and seem to double my existence. For authors of this sort I am provided with an ample licence: and, so they confer upon me benefits thus inestimable and divine, I will never contend with them about the choice of their vehicle, or the incidental accompaniments of their gift,

gift. I can guess very nearly what I should have been, if Epictetus had not bequeathed to us his morals, or Seneca his consolations. But I cannot tell what I should have been, if Shakespear or Milton had not written. The poorest peasant in the remotest corner of England, is probably a different man from what he would have been but for these authors. Every man who is changed from what he was by the perusal of their works, communicates a portion of the inspiration all around him. It passes from man to man, till it influences the whole mass. I cannot tell that the wisest mandarin now living in China, is not indebted for part of his energy and sagacity to the writings of Milton and Shakespear, even though it should happen that he never heard of their names.

‘Books will perhaps be found, in a less degree than is commonly imagined, the corruptors of the morals of mankind. They form an effective subsidiary to events and the contagion of vicious society; but, taken by themselves, they rarely produce vice and profligacy where virtue existed before. Every thing depends upon the spirit in which they are read. He that would extract poison from them, must for the most part come to them with a mind already debauched. The power of books in generating virtue, is probably much greater than in generating vice. Virtue is an object that we contemplate with a mind at peace with itself. The more we contemplate it, the more we find our fortitude increase, enabling us to contend with obstacles, and even to encounter contempt. But vice is an object of a peculiarly unfavourable sort. The thought of entering into a vicious course, is attended with uneasiness, timidity and shame; it disarms, still more strongly than it excites us; and our reluctance to a life of profligacy can scarcely be overcome but by the stimulus of bold and impudent society.’

The *last* essay in this part of the volume contains remarks ‘on early indications of character:’ its leading design is to guard those who are advanced in life against premature and uncandid judgments on the characters of young people, and against converting the temporary deviations of an uninformed mind, into inexpiable errors.

We must defer our account of the second part of this instructive and valuable work to a subsequent article; and shall, for the present, only add, that though in a few particulars Mr. G.’s ideas on education may be liable to objection, they will in general be found just, solid, and useful; the result of accurate observation, and deep reflection; and calculated to improve the important art.

POETRY. THE DRAMA.

ART. XX. *The Henriade, an Epic Poem, in Ten Cantos. Translated from the French of Voltaire, into English Rhyme, with large Historical and Critical Notes. Part the First, containing the Five First Cantos.* 4to. 132 pages. Price of the Whole to Subscribers, 1l. 1s. Booker. 1797.

VOLTAIRE’S

VOLTAIRE'S *Henriade* has been the subject of much controversial criticism: brilliancy of language, and beautiful varieties of poetical imagery, have been conceded to it on all hands; but on so recent a period of history, as the civil wars in France between the protestants and the catholics, the violation of historical truth in sending the hero to Elizabeth in person for succour, has been censured as unwarrantable: even the poet himself considered it of so questionable legitimacy, that, in the first canto, he has employed a long note in his own vindication. The very copious infusion, moreover, of the marvellous and allegorical, has been considered as objectionable. As to the original, however, with whatever beauties it may glow, and with whatever faults its lustre may be shaded, we have nothing to do with it at present; it has received very flattering encomiums from men of literary celebrity, and the eulogies of the late king of Prussia, of Mr. Marmontel, and Mr. Cocchi, are preserved in the prefaces to the *Henriade* of the two former, and in the epistle of the latter to M. Rinuccini. Of the translation before us we can speak in terms of general approbation, and shall extract one or two particular passages, as specimens from which our readers may form an estimate of the rest: we have compared it with the original, and find it remarkable for fidelity; sometimes indeed, the spirit of the translation may flag a little from too close an adherence. In the fourth canto, we observe one of the allegorical personages appearing under two different names, 'Policy,' and 'Intrigue.' The original is 'La Politique' throughout; we know not on what account the translator has chosen to give a double appellation, but it appears to us productive of unnecessary confusion.

The fourth canto opens just as D'Aumale, who was the life and soul of the catholic league, and was at the head of every sally during the siege of Paris, was on the point of becoming master of Valois's camp; Bourbon, however, fortunately returns from England, at the important crisis, engages the troops of the league, and regains the day; the following is a description of the engagement, and a character of the duke de Joyeuse's brother:—P. 90.

* 'Midst those who first the rebel standard rear'd,
Foremost a brother of Joyeuse * appear'd:
He that by starts, from courts to cloisters turn'd,
Now blaz'd in armour, now in sackcloth mourn'd:

* * A brother of Joyeuse.] Henry comte de Bonchage, a younger brother of the duke de Joyeuse, who was killed at Coutras.

* Returning at four o'clock one morning from a night of debauchery, he fancied that he heard the angels singing matins in the Capucins convent. Strongly impressed with this idea, he entered into their order under the name of *frere Ange*. He afterwards quitted his gown and took up arms against Henry IV. The duke of Mayne made him governor of Languedoc, duke, peer, and mareschal of France. After his reconciliation with Henry IV. standing one day with that prince on a balcony under which the people were crowding, "see, cousin," says the king to him, "how curious the people are to see an apostate and a renegade together." Joyeuse immediately returned to his convent where he died.

This

This day his God blasphem'd, the next implor'd,
 And now the cross embrac'd, and now the sword.
 Apostate now, with rage remorseless flames,
 The altar's sacred ministry disclaims,
 Inspires the league, and steeps in civil blood
 Th' anointed hand, devoted to his God!

• But of the chiefs in that detested cause,
 Whose valour, spite of virtue, forc'd applause,
 'Twas you, D'Aumale, vain-glorious youth, 'twas you
 Whose guilty greatness Europe's wonder drew.
 Lorraine's proud blood, which in your bosom swell'd,
 Still against kings, and laws, and peace, rebell'd:
 Restless, unceasing, ever in the field,
 Boldly by day, in silent night conceal'd,
 The foremost of the daring youth he led;
 And death and devastation round him spread!
 Thus from the top of Caucasus, or where
 From Athos brow, the view is lost in air,
 The tyrant of the feather'd tribe descends,
 Or his prone flight the famish'd vulture bends,
 With headlong fury wheeling thro' the skies,
 Drops on his prey with shrill exulting cries,
 The struggling captive, in his pounces bears,
 And 'midst his native cliffs, his victim tears.

• Buoy'd with rash hope, and giddy with his fame,
 To Valois' tent the youth audacious came;
 Night lent the bold attempt her sable screen,
 Full on the camp the torrent burst unseen;
 Surprise and darkness swell'd the dread alarm,
 Death unresisted darted from his arm;
 Fear and confusion ran from tent to tent,
 And sure destruction follow'd as they went.
 As morning quench'd the faded lamps of night,
 Henry approach'd, and thro' the dawning light,
 Mornay preceding, saw the town appear,
 When sounds of desolation struck his ear.
 Valois' defeat the rising sun reveal'd,
 E'en Bourbon's troops were scatter'd o'er the field:
 "Heavens! is it thus my friends their chief receive,
 Is this," he cries, "the welcome which you give!
 See Bourbon comes—but comes to see you fly!"
 Jove was, at Rome, the heart-inspiring cry;
 The Stator's name their fainting souls restor'd,
 When on their broken rear the sabines pour'd;
 But Bourbon's name decides the fate of France,
 Rouz'd by the sound, they rally and advance;
 Scarce had they turn'd, when at their head he stands,
 Back to the charge he leads th' astonish'd bands;
 Swift as the flash which thro' the tempest flies,
 Death in his hand, and fury in his eyes.
 The flying rebels vanish from his sight,
 Like stars extinguish'd by approaching light.

In vain D'Aumale th' unequal fight renews,
In vain they rally, Bourbon's sword pursues:
In vain their leader's well known voice they hear,
Like thunder bursting on their scatter'd rear,
The cry of Bourbon chills their souls with fear.
D'Aumale himself is forc'd at length to yield,
Borne in their flight reluctant from the field;
As some vast fragment from the mountain's brow,
Rolls down with mould'ring earth and yielding snow.'

We shall add to this a very beautiful extract from the fifth canto, where Discord appears to Jacques Clement; (a dominican friar who had just been offering to the throne of the almighty an imprecation against the protestant princes), raises from Hell the demon of fanaticism, in the form of the duke of Guise, whom Henry the third had ordered to be assassinated in the castle of Blois, and urges him to the murder of the king:—P. 116.

' Stopp'd by these accents in her mid career,
Discord, in air suspended hung, to hear;
Then dropt to Hell, and from it's dungeon drew
The fiercest fiend those fiery regions knew;
Fanaticism!—Nature abhors the name,
Unown'd the monster from Religion came;
Nurs'd in her bosom, arm'd for her defence,
His aim destruction, zeal his fair pretence.
'Twas he on Raba's plains, near Arnon's flood,
Taught Ammon's wretched race the rites of blood;
To Moloc's shrine, the frantic mother led,
To slay the infant which her womb had bred!
He form'd the vow which Jephthe's lips express,
And plung'd his dagger in his daughter's breast!
'Twas he, at Aulis, Calchas voice inspir'd,
When Iphigenia's blood the priest requir'd;
Thy forests, France, were long his dark abode,
Where streams of blood, to fierce Teutates flow'd;
Still does affrighted memory retain
The sacred murders of the druid fane.
From Rome's proud capitol his dreary voice
Bad pagan zeal in christian blood rejoice;
But when, no more the tyrant of the earth,
Rome, falling, own'd the God's mysterious birth,
From pagan temples to the church retir'd,
The fiend, with rage, Christ's meek disciples fir'd;
Teaching the patient martyrs of his word,
To brandish persecution's bloody sword.
'Twas he that furious sect in London bred,
By whom too good, too weak, a monarch bled!
Madrid and Lisbon yet his rites disgrace;
He lights those piles, where Israel's hapless race,
By christian priests, in yearly triumph thrown,
Their fathers' heav'n-taught faith, in flames atone!

' Robed in Religion's vestments to our eyes,
Still from the church, he borrow'd his disguise:

But

But now from shades to endless darkness doom'd,
 For other crimes, another garb assum'd;
 Boldness and artifice the dress supplied,
 And Guise's form and Guise's look belied;
 That haughty Guise, whom France beheld so late,
 The tyrant of the king, and of the state;
 Whose spirit baleful, from the tomb arose,
 In death itself, still fatal to his foes.
 O'er his dark brow a pond'rous helmet glar'd,
 Athirst for blood, his hand a faulchion rear'd;
 His breast the marks of Valois' vengeance bore,
 Wide gaping as it heav'd, with clotted gore!
 Those ghastly mouths against the monarch plead,
 And ask the due revenge of such a deed.

‘ While sleep and darkness all the world possess,
 In this dire form to Clement's cell he press'd.
 Cares and intrigue his restless slumbers broke,
 By starts, fermenting passions wildly spoke,
 And rage, tho' sleeping, aim'd some dreadful stroke!
 False Zeal sat watching by her vot'ry's bed,
 Pale Superstition hover'd round his head;
 With joy to meet their Guise's form they ran,
 Which in majestic accents thus began :’

The notes form a very valuable addition to this translation; many of them are translated from the originals of Voltaire, and other very curious and interesting ones are blended. Perhaps, the work would have been more complete, if a translation had been prefixed, of ‘ *Idée de la Henriade*’ and ‘ *Histoire abrégée des événemens sur lesquels est fondée la fable du poëme de la Henriade* ;’ both of which commonly attend the original.

The work is offered to the public by an emigrant french lady, with the hopes of regaining in some measure, the independence she has lost by general calamity: the purchase of it will be an act of particular charity, as a continual application to the needle, which has hitherto contributed to the support of this unfortunate female, has so much impaired her sight, that probably she must soon be prevented from pursuing her honourable but injurious employment.

The work is published by subscription, and subscriptions received at Booker's, No. 56, New-Bond-street, London.

ART. XXI. *The Poet's Fate, a poetical Dialogue.* By George Dyer 8vo. 50 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Robinsons and Johnson. 1797.

ALAS, the dower of a muse is proverbial! occasionally to court them is indeed delightful, but woe to the man that weds one, hungry and poor, soon may he expect to wander

Without a rag of shirt upon his back,
 Or coat and breeches to keep out the weather!

A few leaves of laurel, indeed, may here and there “ be stuck about his wig,” and the poor half-starved wretch may at once be an object of ridicule and pity. Such is the poet's fate! which Mr. Dyer has illustrated by a variety of examples in the dialogue before

fore us, and we sincerely hope that his own name may never be added to the catalogue in any future edition. The dialogue is executed with very considerable spirit, and the notes are abundant and highly interesting.

We extract the following tale, told of old Homer : P. 31.

‘ In ancient times, long ere poor Butler * sigh’d,
Or dinnerless the polish’d Lovelace † died ;

For

* * The author of *Hudibras*, that celebrated artist in satire, a severe lampooner of the puritans and roundheads. But courtiers, royalists, and majesty, rewarded not his merit : of whom probably he, at length, expressed himself in some such manner as this—

For my part I a court despise,
Where none but whores and villains rise ;
Nor will I on the man depend,
I see ungrateful to his friend :
I’ll to my hut in peace retire,
And there myself myself unsquire,
Laugh at the knaves and fools of state,
And live without their love or hate ;
But you to go or stay are free,
Just as the devil and you agree.

‘ These lines are extracted from a poem entitled *Hudibras at court*, inserted in some editions of *Butler’s Remains* ; but as they occur not in *Thyer’s* edition, I quote them not as *Butler’s*, though expressive, probably, of his sentiments, and written, perhaps, by himself.

‘ The truth is, the admired poem, entitled *Hudibras*, justified its author in forming great expectations ; it was read by the king, studied by the courtiers, and universally admired by the royalists ; yet the author lived in obscurity, died in want, and, at his death, was rewarded with a monument, and an epitaph :

Ne, cui vivo deerant fere omnia,
Deesset etiam mortuo tumulus,
Hoc tandem posito marmore curavit
Johannes Barber, civis Londinensis. 1721.

‘ † Colonel sir Richard Lovelace was an amiable and accomplished man, who lived in the time of the civil wars ; by the men respected for his moral worth and literary talents ; by the fair sex almost idolized, for the elegance of his person, and the sweetness of his manners. He was author of a collection of poems, entitled *Lucasta*, printed in 1649. Some beautiful copies of verses, extracted from that collection, may be seen in *Percy’s Reliques of English Poesy*, vol. ii. and in the *Gentleman’s Magazine*.

‘ Lovelace was a great loyalist, and appointed by the people of Kent to deliver their petition to the house of commons for the restoration of Charles, and for settling the government. In the Gatehouse, Westminster, where he was confined, he composed that well-known and elegant little song, entitled, *LOYALTY CONFINED* ; beginning thus :

VOL. XXV.

G g

When

For loyal bards—so runs the poet's fate—
 Though sworn to praise, may live to curse the great;
 Unhar'd the lordly prelate's savoury dish,
 Unblest with mother church's loaf and fish:
 No matter when, in ancient times, I say,
 There liv'd a strolling bard, who sung for pay;
 He wear'd not odes for birth-days, quaff'd no sack,
 Content with one poor covering for his back:
 And now and then, when masters all were kind,
 Both back and belly could some comfort find;
 Then like two lovers merrily they sped:
 This never grumbled, being duly fed;
 That, not hard work'd, was seldom heard to groan:
 Thus good old Darby trudg'd with good old Joan.
 Not such the love 'twixt belly and the brains;
 Did belly thrive? then sluggish were the strains:

‘ When Love, with unconfined wings,
 Hovers within my gates;
 And my divine Althea brings,
 To whisper at my grates;
 When I lie tangled in her hair,
 And fettered in her eye,
 The birds that wanton in the air,
 Know no such liberty.

‘ After a few months confinement, he obtained his enlargement; but, partly by furnishing the king with men and money, and partly by assisting ingenious persons of every description in difficulties, he became himself involved in the greatest distress.

‘ The following passage I extract from a work, entitled, *The Biographical Mirror*, comprising a series of ancient and modern English portraits of eminent and distinguished persons, from original pictures and drawings:

“ After the death of Charles I. Lovelace was set at liberty; but, having by that time consumed all his estate, he fell into a deep melancholy, which brought on a consumption, and made him as poor in person as in purse! till he became (O! piteous work of mutability!) the object even of common charity. He, who in his days of gallantry wore cloth of gold, was now naked, or half covered only with filthy rags! he, who had thrown splendor on palaces, now shrunk into obscure and dirty alleys; he, who had associated with princes, banquetted on dainties; been the patron of the indigent, the admiration of the wife and brave, the darling of the chaste and fair, was now *‘fain’* to herd with beggars, gladly to partake of their coarse offals, and thankfully receive their twice given alms;

“ To hovel him with swine and rogues forlorn,

“ In short and musty straw. SHAKESPEARE.

“ Worn out with misery, he at length expired in 1658, at a very mean lodging in Gunpowder-alley, near Shoe-lane, and was buried at the west-end of St. Bride's church, Fleet-street.”

Did belly ever pine through lack of meat?
How light and clear the brain! the verse how sweet!
No plainer axiom to the meanest dunce,
“That brains and belly could not thrive at once:”
Resolv’d ev’n wise men, as resolv’d the dull,
To starve the belly, was to save the skull.

Mr. D. informs us, in a preface, that the present poem is to be received as the statement of a fact: a second part is to follow, “Poetic Sympathies,” as a reasoning from that fact: we hope he will be equally as successful in the future as he is on the present occasion.

ART. XXII. *Prison Amusements, and other Trifles: principally written during nine Months of confinement in the Castle of York.* By Paul Positive. Small 8vo. 200 pages. Price 4s. in boards. Johnson. 1797.

We certainly should not have suspected the author of these poems, to have written them amid the gloomy horrors of a jail: but in his preface he informs us, ‘that he amused his imagination with attiring his sorrows in verse, that under the romantic appearance of fiction, he might sometimes forget that his misfortunes were real.’ The author says, that he is very young, and certainly he has been very unfortunate, in having been sentenced to the penalties of fine and imprisonment ‘for imputed offences,’ twice in the course of twelve months. The walls of a prison have more than once given birth to the most delicate and beautiful effusions of poetry, and happy is it when such as are doomed to tenant them, can thus alleviate their sorrows and forget their situation! The present miscellaneous volume bespeaks the author to be a young man of taste and feeling: some of the first poems are rather insignificant, but the *Bramin*, a poem of two cantoes, contains many rich and beautiful images, and sometimes soars almost to the sublime. On the banks of the sacred Ganges, retired from a restless world, the reverend sage passes the remainder of a long life in the peacefulness of a solitary cell: one morning, after having ‘hailed the lord of day,’ and bathed in the hallowed tide, a band of youths and virgins press round the prophet, and he explains to them the doctrine, which his religion inculcates, of the transmigration of souls. From the first canto we select the following extract of the hoary sage’s speech:

P. 84.—“A ghaunt hyæna, from the forest’s gloom;
A jealous fiend, whose maw’s a living tomb:
An hermit-monster, gorged with horrid prey,
Yet ravening still, to Ganges winds his way:
Mark, as the murderer moves along the strand,
His gory footsteps print with blood the sand.
Arrived, he reels toward the giddy brink,
Then bends incumbent o’er the stream to drink;
But back recoils, transfixed with chill affright,
And strains each agonizing orb of sight;
While, in the living wave, the frantic elf
Starts from the grisly image—of himself!
Shame, wrath, confusion in his visage glare;
He bursts with rancour, shivers with despair:

Now all his frame with mortal madness burns,
 Again impatient to the stream he turns ;
 Again the watery phantom blasts his eyes,
 With tenfold horror all the features rise !
 He springs to rend the monster with his feet,
 And the mock-monster springs his rage to meet ;
 He roars—he foams—he plunges in the flood,
 —The phantom vanishes in rolling mud !
 Victorious then the fiend triumphant lands,
 And round his head, in whirlwinds, spurns the sands ;
 But glancing o'er the stream his thirsty eyes,
 Again beholds his rival self arise ;
 Headlong, and blind, he cleaves the foaming tides ;
 Again the phantom from his vengeance glides :
 In vain he struggles with the waves, in vain
 He spends his might ;—he floats towards the main :
 There shall his wild impatient soul embark,
 And navigate the ocean in a shark !

“ That dæmon filled a blood besprinkled throne ;
 Upheld by rapine, as by murder won :
 But when stern conscience, like yon holy tide,
 Shewed him himself,—on his own sword he died !

“ Now from the monster turn your aching eyes,
 Where softer scenes, more pleasing prospects rise.
 See, in light gambols, tripping o'er the lawn,
 Yon beauteous doe, and wildly wanton fawn ;
 Swift as fantastic meteors sweep the sky,
 They spring, they charge, they turn, retire or fly.
 In this delightful valley dwelt the pair,
 A gentle mother and her daughter fair.
 That stately deer, whose branching honours spread
 High o'er his nodding brows and graceful head,
 Once shone the glory of the rural scene,
 The gallant monarch of the village green ;
 He wooed yon doe to his enamoured arms,
 A virgin then, in all her spring of charms.
 That playful fawn, so beautiful and young,
 An only child, from their embraces sprung.
 Twelve circling suns renewed their bright career,
 And found the lovers happier every year ;
 While each fond parent in the daughter's face,
 The other's budding features loved to trace.

“ Soft as the dulcet fumes of spices flow
 From Ceylon's groves, when evening breezes blow ;
 Mild as the sunshine of a vernal day,
 Their gliding moments sweetly stole away.
 But, ah ! my sorrowing bosom bleeds to tell,
 How, warm in youth, the vigorous husband fell ;
 Fell ; as the cedar, flourishing on high,
 Stoops to the fierce red bolt that splits the sky ;
 The prostrate ruins load the mournful ground,
 And all its blasted glories perish round.

Thus set the bridegroom from the noon of life;
Nor long survived the self-devoted wife!
I saw the mourner mount his funeral pyre,
Kiss the cold corpse, and triumph in the fire;
One farewell tear to parting life she shed,
Sunk on his breast, and bowed her dying head:
So were the sun extinguished from his sphere,
The widowed moon would perish on his bier!
The daughter next, in beauty's morning bloom,
Wept o'er their loss, then followed to the tomb:
Thus fades an orphan violet on the plain,
When the plough shares the parent-roots in twain!
Now changed to deer, renewed the lovers find
All the soft happiness they left behind.

"But lo! the sun's impetuous fervors beam,
In floods of fire on Ganges' glittering stream;
Retire we now till evening smile in dew,
Then in the cool mild hour our pleasing theme pursue."

In two epistles to a friend, the author has described the pleasures of imprisonment: thus should it seem, that there is no situation in life which is not chequered with pleasure and with pain; that a vivid imagination can cheer the deepest shades, and 'like a sun-beam in the day of the gloomy storm,' enliven the darkest day. If we select any as preferable to the rest, among the smaller poems, perhaps they would be 'the Evening Star, the Water Wagtail's address, the Retreat, the Wild Rose,' and the last tale, in which the poet describes his own unlucky life. 'The Grumbler's Petition,' is a more successful attempt at humour than 'the Statesman and his fool.' On the whole, the volume before us forms a very entertaining collection of poems, and we hope the *genius* of our author will not be fettered when his *person* is free. We shall extract 'the Retreat,' as being extremely delicate and simple: P. 136.

'Welcome, dear maid! to these soft scenes!
Welcome to these Elysian plains!
With me, in this serene retreat,
Come love, and Laura, fix your seat.

'No drums, nor trumpet's martial sound
Shall ever rend this peaceful ground;
No sabres clash, nor cannons roar,
To drench these blooming plains in gore.

'When morning gilds the opening east,
Or evening veils the closing west,
Cheerful we'll rise and hail the light,
Or steal to rest and bless the night.

'When spring descends in balmy showers,
Revives the trees, and wakes the flowers;
When summer's brighter glories shine,
Or autumn melts the luscious vine:

'Then, arm in arm, we'll gaily rove
The flushing mead, the warbling grove;

On beds of velvet moss repose,
And breathe the incense of the rose.

‘ For thee in this delightful bower,
I’ll garlands weave of every flower,
Which this delicious valley yields,
Or blooms in these luxuriant fields.

‘ Even winter, desolation’s fire,
Shall smile beside our social fire;
While tempests shake the mountain’s brow,
Secure from storms we’ll sing below.

‘ Farewell, ambition!—pride, farewell!
Presume not near this sacred cell:
Come, cherub peace!—contentment, come!
And make this favoured cot your home.

‘ Though humble be our little lot,
The rich and great we envy not;
Can heaven bestow one bliss above
The tender luxury of love?’

ART. XXIII. *The Fatal Sisters: or the Castle of the Forest, a Dramatic Romance of five Acts, with a variety of Poetic Essays.* By John Edmund Eyre, of the Theatres Royal, Bath and Bristol; late of Pembroke College Cambridge, and Author of the *Maid of Normandy*; or the *Death of the Queen of France—Consequences*; or the *School for Prejudice*, a Comedy---The *Dreamer awake*; or the *Pugilist unmasked*, &c. &c. 8vo. 142 pages. Price 4s. sewed. Longman. London, 1797.

MR. Eyre seems to have been somewhat unlucky in his dramatic labours; he has long worked in the vineyard, he says, but disappointment has always soured the fruit. The present performance, has been offered to both managers, and has been rejected. The author very honestly tells us, that fame and hunger have equally excited the activity of his pen. We are disarmed. We cannot speak highly in praise of the present performance, and we shall not be so cruel as ‘to attack it with any *random* blows.’ Is it necessary to hint, that it is improbable Athold and Edwy should voluntarily resign themselves prisoners to Ferrand, and coolly walk into the jaws of his castle at Almunecar? “Observe me well,” quoth Ferrand in the second scene of the third act to his captive Elvira, “this place has privacy for amorous dalliance. My guards are watchful as the lynx.” O’Leary enters the moment after in spite of these lynx-eyed guards, as also do Rimirez and Francisco! the tyrant must have been frequently interrupted in his amorous dalliances, if his privacies were thus exposed, and his guards thus careless.

Among our author’s poetic essays, there does not appear to be much of the ‘fine frenzy’ mingled; the two first elegiac odes, however, are not destitute of poetical imagery.

ART.

ART. XXIV. *The Times; or, a Fig for Invasion, a Musical Entertainment, in two Acts, dedicated to the Right Honourable William Pitt, &c. &c. By a British Officer.* 8vo. 48 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Becket. 1797.

IN a very becoming address the author tells us, that he is sensible the only merit which attaches to his performance is the spirit of true patriotism which it breathes, and which he means it should infuse into the breasts of all ranks of people. Perhaps we might dispute with him on the definition of true patriotism, but according to his own, he certainly is most outrageously patriotic. We entirely agree with the author, that the only merit of his work is that which he has claimed.

D. M.

THEOLOGY.

ART. XXV. *A Defence of the Old Testament, in a Series of Letters, addressed to Thomas Paine, author of a Book entitled, the Age of Reason, Part the Second, being an Investigation of true and of fabulous Theology.* By David Levi, Author of *Lingua Sacra*, Dissertations on the Prophecies, &c. &c. 8vo. 208 pages. Price 4s. Johnson. 1797.

THOUGH numerous answers to Mr. Paine's Age of Reason have already appeared, it may be expected that an answer, written by a Jew, and particularly by a Jew of so much learning and ability as Mr. L., will contain new and interesting matter. How far this expectation is likely to be gratified by this defence of the Old Testament here offered to the public, it will be our business to enable our readers to judge.

Mr. L. first replies to Mr. Paine's assertion, that Moses was not the author of the books ascribed to him. To the objection that Moses is, in the Pentateuch, spoken of in the third person, it is replied, that this is proper and usual in historical writing. The introduction of names, not known till after the time of Moses, is accounted for, from the books having been written under divine inspiration. In proof of the inspiration of Moses, Mr. L. chiefly insists on his denunciations, relative to the dispersion of the Jews, since exactly fulfilled in every particular. Some of the facts, adduced in confirmation of this assertion, will interest the reader.

P. 21.—‘And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest.’ This hath indeed been fully verified, for they have been so far from finding rest, that they have been banished from place to place, from country to country. In many places they have been banished, and recalled, and banished again. I shall just take notice of some of their great banishments in modern times, from countries well known. About the latter end of the thirteenth century, they were banished from England by

* Deut. xxviii. 65.

† Bainage, Book vii. chap. xix. sect. 20, &c.

Edward I. * and were not permitted to return and settle there again, till Cromwell's time, or rather under Charles the second. In the latter end of the fifteenth century, as Mariana observes †, they were banished from Spain, by Ferdinand and Isabella: and according to his account, there were seventy thousand families, or eight hundred thousand persons, that left Spain upon the execution of this edict. Some ‡ reckon an hundred and twenty thousand families. They were indeed received in Portugal by John II. but he made them pay a dear price for a refuge; and a few years after they were banished by his successor Emanuel; who violated his faith with them, "By depriving them of their liberty to carry away their children under fourteen years of age, which reduced them to that despair, that some of them killed themselves, and others sacrificing nature to their religion, turned executioners to their own bowels §." This leads us to what Moses says, concerning their children, "Thy sons and thy daughters *shall be* given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail *with longing* for them all the day long: and *there shall be* no might in thine hand ||." How exactly hath all this been fulfilled in several countries; but especially in Spain and Portugal, where they formerly were so numerous; and where their children were taken from them by order of the government, to be educated in the popish religion; as mentioned in the first prophecy of Moses, in my Dissertations on the Prophecies, vol: 1. page 32. And Basnage ¶ observes, that the fourth council of Toledo, ordered that all their children should be forced from them, for fear they should partake of their errors; and that they should be shut up in monasteries, to be instructed in the christian truths. He adds, "We shall see in the sequel the lamentable effects of these rapes." And it has been shewn under the preceding head, that when they were banished from Portugal, all their children under fourteen years of age, were taken from them, and baptized. A practice not at all justifiable, adds the historian **.

He also tells them, that they shall be oppressed and spoiled continually. "And thou shalt be only oppressed, and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save *thee* ††," &c. Now it is well known what frequent seizures have been made of their effects, in almost all countries, either to supply the necessities of the state, or the luxury of the prince: how often have they been fined and fleeced by almost all governments? How often have they been forced to redeem their lives by sums extorted from them? The instances are innumerable. I shall just mention what an english historian †† says, that Henry III.

* Some say it was Henry III.

† Basnage, book vii. chap. xxi.

‡ Abarbanal. Cordoso las Excellencias, &c'

§ Basn. book vii. chap. xxi. sect. 25.

|| Deut. xxviii. 32.

¶ Hist. of the jews, book vii. chap. xiii. sect. 14.

** Mariana, book xxvi. chap. vi.

†† Deut. xxviii. 29.

†† Kennet, vol. 1. page 179.

“always polled the jews at every low ebb of his fortunes. One Abraham, who was found delinquent, was forced to pay seven hundred marks for his redemption. Aaron, another jew, protested that the king had taken from him, at times, thirty thousand marks of silver, besides two hundred marks of gold, which he had presented to the queen.”

‘And in the year 1240, when the king attempted to fleece them to the utmost, a most respectable author observes *, that he “commanded *all* the jews of both sexes throughout *England*, to be imprisoned, till they would make a discovery of their wealth: which he appointed officers to receive in every county, and return to his *exchequer*. Many of them, no doubt, pleaded poverty, or pretended to have given up all: but as the *tyrant* was in earnest to have their last farthing, he extorted it by the most cruel torments.”

‘Stow says, that the generality of them had one eye put out. And Matthew Paris † tells us, that from one particular jew at Bristol, the king demanded no less than ten thousand marks of silver, (a prodigious sum in those days!) which being resolutely denied him, he commanded one of his great teeth to be pulled out daily, till he consented. The poor man had the courage to hold out seven operations, but then, sinking under the pain, ransomed the remainder of his teeth, at the price demanded. And when they were banished in the reign of Edward I. their estates, &c. were confiscated, which brought immense sums to the crown. Thus have they been served, almost every where; a plain demonstration of the full accomplishment of his prediction.’

Other similar facts are related as manifest proofs of the accomplishment of the prediction of Moses, and consequently of his inspiration, and divine mission. The actions of Moses are reviewed, to clear him from the charge of vanity and arrogance; and the pure doctrine, which he taught concerning the divine nature, is alleged as a proof of his having been instructed by immediate inspiration. The charge of cruelty towards the midianites is obviated by saying, that it was a just punishment, inflicted by divine command.

As a philosopher, historian, orator, poet, and prophet, Moses is highly extolled: and, as a legislator, his claim to divine authority is rested upon an appeal to the general principles of his law, and an examination of the particular nature and tendency of his precepts. The notions which he taught concerning God, and his worship, the purity of his moral laws, and the wisdom and humanity of his institutions, are insisted upon as farther proofs of his divine mission. The wisdom of appointing one nation to preserve the knowledge and worship of the one true God, in the midst of surrounding idolators, is illustrated at large. The series of miraculous appearances and interpositions, by which the israelites are said to have been brought to receive the law of Moses, is concluded to have really taken place as related, from the circumstance, that the belief of his divine mission has never been effaced from the jewish nation.

* See *Anglia Judaica*, p. 70.

† Matth. Paris, and Stow, anno 1210.

In reply to the conjecture, that the Pentateuch was written several hundred years after the death of Moses, Mr. L. asks,

P. 111.—“At what time could such an innovation take place? at what time did the nation first submit to this imposition? to be obliged to offer their first fruits, to give tithes to the *priests*, the *levites*, the *poor*, the *fatherless*, and the *widow*; to be compelled to leave their habitations three times in a year, and come from the most distant parts of Jerusalem, (leaving the whole country to the defence of old men, women and children) and bring free gifts with them: to let their lands lay waste every seventh, and every fiftieth year, and thereon to remit *all debts*, let all purchased servants go free, and all estates return to their first owners? I say, when could all this have been introduced? for there was no time from the time of Moses to this hour, when such an imposture could have been accomplished, without being detected. Is it to be imagined, that the whole body of the nation should concur in carrying on such a fraud against themselves, and that there should not be found one among them, that had either ability or honesty, to discover it? Nay, that all Israel for upwards of three thousand years, through the several periods of their common wealth, the revolutions of empires, and the vicissitudes of time; in prosperity and adversity; during a long and dreadful exile, dispersion, poverty, and persecution, such as no nation ever suffered; should yet, continue to act in a manner, that evinceth the strongest conviction of the divine origin of the law of Moses; though, according to your assertion, there is not the least foundation for such a rational belief? Surely, there are none so credulous as to be capable of believing such things as these.”

With respect to the destruction of the canaanites, Mr. L. thinks it a just visitation of the divine displeasure for their atrocious wickedness; and, besides, observes, that the israelites were not *absolutely* commanded to extirpate them, but only in case they refused to submit, so that, ‘if they met with destruction, they had none but themselves to blame.’ The account of the sun standing still upon mount Gibeon he understands literally, though he does not attempt to explain it; he even finds a prediction of it in Deut. xxxiii, 26.

In the sequel, respecting the rest of the books of the Old Testament, we meet with little, which, after Dr. Watson’s able reply to Mr. Paine, requires particular notice. In treating of the prophecies Mr. L. introduces many of the ideas, which he has unfolded more at large in his dissertations, and his letters to Dr. Priestley and Dr. Cooper.

In several parts of these letters, the author makes use of arguments, which will scarcely appear satisfactory to many believers, and will probably make no impression upon infidels. Few people will now, we believe, admit the authority of Aben Ezra as a sufficient proof, that the pastoral, called Solomon’s song, is a sacred allegory. Sometimes Mr. L. indulges himself too freely in contemptuous and acrimonious language. If Mr. Paine’s work were a compound of ignorance, absurdity, and nonsense, why have so many learned men given themselves the trouble of answering it? On the whole, however, this is a respectable and valuable performance; and may particularly deserve attention, as showing in what light the evidences

dences of the divine legation of Moses appear to an intelligent and learned jew.

ART. XXVI. *Discourses on the Providence and Government of God.*
By Newcome Cappe. 8vo. 232 pages. Price 4s. in boards.
Johnson. 1795.

THE character of Mr. Cappe, as a learned, liberal, and animated writer, is well known to many of our readers. Of his distinguished talents as a preacher the public has seen abundant proof in several excellent single sermons, preached upon particular occasions. He now comes forward, on general ground, as an advocate for the fundamental doctrine of religion, the providence and government of God: and he treats the subject with a strength of argument, and force of eloquence, which will not fail to render these sermons highly acceptable to the public.

The volume contains a connected train of discourses, fifteen in number. The first *two* are preliminary, and are chiefly intended to explain the text, Lament. iii, 37, which is prefixed to each sermon, and to illustrate the value of prophecy, as an evidence of divine revelation. *Five* discourses are employed in illustrating the doctrine of the government of God, with respect to it's nature and extent. The observations enlarged upon in these discourses are: That what we call evil, as well as good, proceeds from God; that every different species of beings is ruled by different laws, and all according to their respective natures; that the government of God is adapted to the various circumstances and tempers of individuals; that it is in part, as it respects intelligent and voluntary agents, carried on by the instrumentality of others; that it is conducted by general laws; that these general laws exclude not the possibility, or even the probability, that, on any just occasion, these laws may be suspended; and that, in regard to practical consequences, it is the same thing whether events take place in consequence of a pre-established order, or from the successive commands and operations of God. In the *eighth, ninth, and tenth* discourses, the author exhibits at large the reasons by which the doctrine of the government of God is supported: these are deduced from the natural perfections of God; from the relations which he bears to the world as it's creator and father; from the existence of a revelation; from the prophecies which have been verified and fulfilled; from natural phenomena, in which wise and kind purposes are manifested; from the general good order of the world; and from the express testimony of revelation. The five remaining discourses are employed in the practical improvement of the doctrine. From the argumentative parts of this volume we shall make a short extract, on the subject of the natural facts which confirm the doctrine of providence.

P. 130.—'I might here produce, both from sacred and civil history, both from public and from private life, many very important events that have been brought about by the most inconsiderable means; many that have, in fact, followed as their consequence from those things on which they seem to have no manner of dependance, or even the least connexion with them; and many which must be acknowledged, in human apprehension, to have been
directly

directly contrary to the natural tendency of what we call their causes, the very reverse of what reasonably might have been, and of what actually was expected from them. In these things we must own the hand of God; his providence and agency is necessary to the solution of them. I shall not stay to specify the instances; this would be altogether needless to those who have the history of providence in their hands, and it is fit that I should not neglect to mention to you what occurs within yourselves, and within your observation, to demonstrate that God interests himself in the welfare of his creatures, and is not unconcerned about their welfare in futurity.

‘ Whence is it I pray that the ant, whom you will not, I suppose, suspect to be possessed of a prophetic spirit; whence is it that without any foresight of her own she provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest; you see no guide, or overseer, or ruler, that she has; but can you account for this, if God be not her ruler, her overseer and guide? Whence comes this provident disposition, but thence whence her being comes? And can any thing be a clearer proof that God abandons not his creatures, but extends his care over them not only to their present comfort, but also to their future happiness? Is not this as indisputable an argument of divine providence as if God, by miraculous interposition, should annually send an angel from on high to lay up in store for this industrious people a provision for their future wants?

‘ Whence is it that the stork in the heavens knows her appointed time; that the turtle and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming? That is to say, How are they warned to flee from those inclement seasons that are not yet arrived? How is their course directed to a milder sky? How do they judge so nicely when the period of their sojourning is elapsed? Or by what principle is it that when that period is elapsed they assemble for their flight from every quarter of the heavens? Have they, how can they have, any other pilot, or any other monitor, than God! Whence these changes but from the divine appointment? How but under the divine direction? Why these changes if it were indifferent to God whether his sensible creation were preserved or perished? If it were indifferent to him whether they prolonged their being in comfort or in misery?

‘ Like to these are the powers of foresight and anticipation in yourselves, by which you are so much interested in futurity, that it is almost always in the present moment one chief object of your thought and care. What mean these powers? What do they say to you of your Creator?

‘ Do they bespeak him to be careless of his works? To exercise no government, no providence over his creation? Do they declare him to be utterly unconcerned about his offspring and their affairs?

‘ If the present blessings of his sensible creation could be ascribed to chance or fate; i. e. if, in other words, the present happiness of his sensible creation, at any time, were not to be imputed to a benevolent and intelligent principle as its author, yet foresight, as it implies intelligence in its possessor, must imply intelligence in its bestower, or its cause; and a provision for futurity, by whatever means,

means, together with the principle through which that provision for futurity is made, must be imputed to a Being who is at once both wise and kind, who knows what is to come hereafter, and means to make it welcome to his subjects.'

The merit of this volume of sermons chiefly consists in a strong exhibition of obvious and popular arguments in support of religious belief; and in an animated application of the doctrine of providence, as a motive to virtue, and as a source of consolation. The publication is excellently adapted to answer the purpose intended by the worthy author, of leading men's thoughts with powerful tendency towards their Maker, and giving support and consolation to afflicted virtue.

ART. XXVII. *The Glory of Religion, founded on the Doctrine of the Ever Blessed Trinity: or Sabellianism Refuted. (Addressed to the Church under the pastoral Care of Mr. Mansell,) To which is added, a Refutation of his erroneous Work, entitled, "An Appeal to the Christian Professing World."* By George Fossett. 8vo. 98 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Button. 1796.

To 'expose the flagrant heinousness of denying the existence of the Trinity,' and to 'rescue the holy Godhead from a dangerous and abominable innovation on it's glory,' are the declared objects of this publication. The writer, one of the most zealous champions for orthodoxy, considers *sabellianism*—a term, by the way, which he never explains—as the bane of all godliness, and denounces the defenders of this doctrine under the warm appellation of *satanic fiends*. After quoting many texts to prove that *three are one*, Mr. F. concludes in the following words, which our readers, we have no doubt, will think a sufficient specimen of his peculiar style of eloquence.

P. 28.—'Now, beloved, if all that I have said, both from experience and divine testimony, in order to prove the divinity and godhead of Christ, should in your estimate appear weak and contemptible, I shall conclude this part of my address to you with our Saviour's own words; which I pray God may prove as a hammer, fire, and sword—as a hammer to force your stubborn hearts to bow or bend to his sceptre; as a fire to burn up the false foundation on which ye build; and as a sword to cut asunder the bands of error and deception, which now detain your vessel in the devil's dock-yard, under a false pretence of a thorough repair; or in Satan's harbour, under a false pretence of being stored with a richer cargo; the words I refer to are the following: "Those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before ME."

An annexed letter to Mr. Mansell endeavours to refute his arguments, by calling the whole 'a mass of plagiarism and tautology, inflated with blasphemous heresy, the lies of which are so vaguely barefaced, and it's confused contradictions so oppositely inconsistent, that, to all intents and purposes, they contradict and invalidate themselves.' Surely, this good man does not know the meaning of the word *tautology*.

ART. XXVIII. *The Connection of Situation, with Character considered, with a View to the Ministers of Religion. A Synod Sermon; by the Rev. Stevenson MacGill, Minister of East-wood.* 8vo. 54 pa. Price 1s. Glasgow, Macaulay; London, Vernor and Co. 1797.

L'Esprit du Corps is a phrase, which well expresses the peculiarity of character that arises from professional interests and habits. The strength of this spirit has frequently been remarked in the clergy; and much censure, often, we trust, undeservedly, has been cast upon them, for indulging it in a manner not quite consistent with the avowed objects of their office. It is the laudable intention of this sermon to show, in what manner the dispositions and conduct of the clergy *ought to be* influenced by their professional situation and character. The preacher reminds his brethren, that they ought to be eminently distinguished by spotlessness of Life; by habitual piety and profound reverence for the truths and exercises of religion, accompanied with a tender sensibility for it's honour, and a fearless zeal in maintaining it's interests; by moderation in the desire of earthly things; by affection to mankind, meekness, condescension, and compassion, and by a freedom from levity, and all those improprieties and follies to which persons of a light and frivolous disposition are liable. These several heads, particularly the last, are well illustrated, and pertinently applied to the present state of clerical manners. The discourse is sensible, judicious, and well written; and may deserve to be read by young clergymen of all denominations.

ART. XXIX. *The Path of the Just like the shining Light: A Sermon, occasioned by the Death of Henry Keene, Esq., who departed this Life, February, 14, 1797, in the 71st Year of his Age: Preached at Maze-Pond, Southwark.* By James Dore. 8vo. 36 pages. Price 1s. Gurney. 1796.

THIS is a public tribute to private merit, in the customary strain of funeral sermons among the calvinistic class of dissenters. The discourse is pious; and, in the sense in which that body usually understand the term, evangelical. Many excellent things are said, we have no doubt, deservedly, of the deceased; and as the crown of his merit—perhaps we ought to apologize for the use of so heretical a term in such a connection—it is related that, in his last moments, he acknowledged his guilt to be great, ‘but casting himself at the foot of the cross, he trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ for the salvation of his soul.’

ART. XXX. *The Beauties of Henry: a Selection of the most striking Passages in the Exposition of that celebrated Commentator. To which is prefixed A brief Account of the Life, Character, Labours, and Death, of the Author.* Vol. 1. Extracted from the Historical Part of the Old Testament. By John Geard. 12mo. 430 pages. Price 4s. 6d. in boards. Bristol, James; London, Button. 1797.

MATTHEW Henry, though not, perhaps, much-valued as a biblical critic, has long been held in high estimation, and, among that class of religious people who retain a fondness for the devotional and practical writings of the puritans and nonconformists of the last century, is still greatly esteemed, as an instructive and useful commentator upon the Scriptures.

Scriptures. His popularity has been in a great measure owing to a happy talent, which he possessed, of expressing a pious reflection, or a moral observation, in a smart, pointed, and sometimes almost epigrammatic manner. Were it not for what one of his admirers calls his 'sweet notes,' and the sprightly turns of thought, which are interspersed through his commentary, his *five vast folios* would long ago have been thrown aside as heavy lumber. To those good people, who still turn over the long pages of Henry, in order to come at his sweet notes, the editor of this volume will, doubtless, render a very acceptable service, in collecting these *beauties* to their hands. To the generality of readers they may not be very attractive; for it requires a peculiar course of education, and turn of thinking, to relish the allegorizing, spiritualizing, and evangelizing manner of this pious commentator. Yet there is a degree of ingenuity mixed with his peculiarities, which gives him some title to rank among good writers: and they, who are not disposed to adopt his theological sentiments, or prepared to relish his spiritual food, may read many passages in this selection with pleasure. We shall pluck two or three flowers from this spiritual bouquet.

P. 11.—'The woman was *made of a rib out of the side of Adam*: not made out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him; but out of his side to be equal with him; under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.'

P. 49.—'Those that have turbulent spirits have commonly troublesome lives. They that are provoking, vexatious, and injurious to others, must expect to be repaid in their own coin. He that has his hand and tongue against every man, shall have every man's hand and tongue against him, and has no reason to complain of it.'

P. 93.—'Honesty obliges us to make restitution, not only of that which comes to us by our own fault, but of that which comes to us by the mistakes of others. Though we get it by oversight, if we keep it when the oversight is discovered, it is kept by deceit.'

P. 273.—'Many an unhappy strife would be prevented, or soon ended, by an impartial and favourable inquiry into that which is the matter of the offence. The rectifying of mistakes and misunderstandings, and the setting of mis-construed words and actions in a true light would be the most effectual way to accommodate both private and public quarrels, and bring them to a happy period.'

P. 312.—'None will be losers at last by their humility and modesty. Honour, like the shadow, follows those that flee from it, but flees from those that pursue it.'

P. 336.—'False men are ready to think others as false as themselves; and they that bear ill-will to their neighbours, are resolved not to believe that their neighbours bear any good-will to them.'

P. 343.—'It is no piece of wisdom to be stiff in our resolutions, but to be willing to hear reason, even from our inferiors, and to be over-ruled by their advice, when it appears to be for our own good.'

P. 413.—'If every one will sweep before his own door, the street will be clean; if every one will mend one, we shall be all mended.'

The memoir, prefixed to this selection, is interesting. The editor informs the public, that, if this volume meet with approbation, a second, extracted from the remainder of the Old Testament, will soon follow.

L. M. S.
ART.

HISTORY.

ART. XXXI. *Private Memoirs relative to the last Year of the Reign of Lewis XVI, late King of France.* By Ant. Fr. Bertrand de Moleville, Minister of State at that time. Translated from the original Manuscript of the Author, which has never been published. With five Portraits, from original Pictures, of the Royal Family of France. 3 vols. 8vo. About 420 Pages each. Price 1l. 1s. Cadell and Davies. 1797.

It is from original and authentic publications like the present, that the future historian of France, will draw his materials, and collect his facts. Enjoying the confidence of Lewis XVI, invested at one time with a high official situation, and employed afterwards in a very delicate and dangerous service; it is not to be doubted but Mr. B. de M. was acquainted with all the operations and intrigues of the period he describes, and is well entitled to say in his title page.

——— *quæque ipse miserrima vidi,*
Et quorum pars.———

Making all due allowance, therefore, for the prejudices that will naturally arise in the breast of a royalist, in favour of his sovereign, and against the enemies of both, this work appears to abound with a variety of genuine information.

The author begins by exhibiting a view of France, previously to the assembling of the States General in 1789; he asserts, in express opposition to the opinion of most of the court party, that their convocation was *absolutely necessary*, and points out the causes of the mischiefs that followed. On this occasion, notwithstanding his profound attachment to the king, he very ingenuously attributes no inconsiderable portion of these to his own weakness, and the criminal perversity of Maurepas:—Vol. 1. p. 29.

‘ In the course of these memoirs, I more than once lament the indecision of that unfortunate prince; his repugnance to adopt the bold measures which might have saved him; his being deficient in that energy of character, that self-confidence which imposes on the multitude, who are more ready to believe that he who commands with firmness and an air of authority, possesses the means of enforcing obedience. But I will venture to say, that the very faults above enumerated did not belong to his natural character, but were engrafted upon it by the selfish indolence of M. de Maurepas, that ancient minister, whom the court flatterers were not ashamed to call the Nestor of France, because he resembled Nestor in age; having been discarded in the former reign, he was now recalled to direct the first steps of Lewis XVI, in the career of royalty.

‘ Previous to the recall of this minister, the young prince had been noted for an awkward forwardness of manner, and impatience of contradiction, through which, however, a goodness of heart and love of justice always appeared. He did not find in his pupil any of those passions so common to his years, but the seeds of all the precious qualities with which providence endows the minds of those princes who do honour to the throne, and are destined for the happiness of the people. What task could be more easy and honourable than that which this pretended

pretended monitor had to fulfil? His care and attention were not required to render the young monarch virtuous, but to unfold those virtues he already possessed, and so to direct them, that those qualities which form a great prince might take the lead of those which merely form a man of probity; to teach him to estimate the talents of men, that he might thereby be empowered to employ them conformably to their abilities. He ought, at the same time, to have given him such an idea of his own powers and resources, as would have inspired him with a reasonable degree of confidence in himself, and have enabled him to act with that steadiness which always creates respect: for a prince, of a good understanding, who is conscious of his own value, may sometimes appear superior, but will never appear inferior to himself.

‘If M. de Maurepas had consulted the glory and the happiness of France, this would have been the path he would have pursued. But a glory only in prospect, and the happiness of a nation, were enjoyments of too refined a nature for that minister. He wished to revenge, or at least to indemnify himself, for many years of exile, and the unlimited confidence which the king placed in him, furnished him with too ample means. His chief endeavour was to keep the king ignorant of his affairs, disgust him with business, extinguish all his energy, and to render him an absolute cypher, that he, the minister, might reign in his name. In this manner the first sceptre in Europe became the mere bauble of dotage and indifference.

‘The tedium inseparable from such an insignificant situation, promoted his majesty’s passion for hunting, where alone he enjoyed full liberty; and the magnificence with which that diversion was conducted at Versailles made him forget the insipidity to which M. de Maurepas had reduced the regal office; and though the king often pushed this exercise to excess, the minister took care not to warn him against it, because he found his majesty more pliant to his counsels when overwhelmed with fatigue than at any other time.’

‘It may be said,’ adds the author soon after, ‘that if the indifference and selfishness of M. de Maurepas excited the fermentation of the impure elements of the revolution, the incapacity and extravagant violence of the archbishop of Sens conducted the king and the monarchy to the mouth of the volcano, and the ambition and foolish vanity of Mr. Necker, precipitated them into it.’

In addition to his own, Mr. B. de M. invokes the respectable testimony of general Melville, in regard to the amiable character of the late king of France*. That officer had undoubtedly an opportunity of ascertaining this fact, during his mission to the court of Versailles, soon after the close of the American war, respecting Tobago, a colony of which he may be said to have been the founder; but it is less by the personal, than the political qualities of a prince, that a great nation is benefited. We are not wanting in examples to prove, that the private virtues of the *man* may enable the king to gratify the darling passion of his heart at the expense of his subjects, and with all due deference to the memory of Lewis XVI, we think

• See note to page 173, vol. iii.

we could prove, from the volumes before us, that he did not always employ the most lawful means to obtain his ends.

This is indeed fully proved by the rigorous and unjust treatment of the parliament of Brittany, as may be seen in chap. III, IV, V, vol. i, which resembled the equally daring but more successful efforts of the same kind under Lewis XIV, and also by the use he made of his civil list, in various parts of vol. ii.

The portrait exhibited of Mr. Necker will doubtless give umbrage to the friends of that gentleman. He is said to have acquired the bulk of his fortune 'by manœuvres more lucrative than honourable,' and is repeatedly reproached for 'the empirical illusion' of his schemes of finance. It is allowed, however, that 'as a literary man, although his works are laboriously composed, and written with affected emphasis, yet the useful truths which some of them contain will secure him a place among the distinguished writers of the age.'

Mr. Petion is treated with still less respect:

'His countenance, which appeared at first sight open and agreeable, upon a nearer examination, was insipid and devoid of expression. His want of information and heavy elocution, meanly trivial or absurdly bombast, made me consider him as a man by no means dangerous. I even imagined that by flattering his vanity or ambition, he might be rendered useful to the king. His conduct has proved how much I was deceived; and I cannot even at this distance of time, reflect without pain, on my having been deceived by so silly a knave.'

As this work will be looked to for the *secret history* it contains, we shall select a few miscellaneous facts. In vol. ii, p. 36, we are told that Tippoo Saëb sent a Mr. Leger from India, with a message to the king of France, in which he 'demanded 6000 french troops, offering to pay their transportation, cloathing and maintenance.' He at the same time notified, that with this assistance he could be enabled to destroy the english army and settlements in India. 'The natural probity of the king's mind would not permit him to adopt this measure. "This resembles," said he, "the affair of America, which I never think of without regret. My youth was taken advantage of at that time, and we suffer for it now. The lesson is too severe to be forgotten."

Soon after the convocation of the states general, the dey of Algiers treated the french flag with great indignity, but on being convinced that such an insult was not likely to pass unpunished, he immediately addressed himself to the king, and offered his assistance to chastise his 'rebellious subjects.'

We every where find repeated, but unsuccessful, attempts to buy off the patriotic journalists and deputies; a plan attended with the entire annihilation of the civil list, and accompanied by the most mortifying consequences, for some refused the proffered bribes, while others accepted of them, and became more violent against the court than ever! As this is a curious fact, we shall enter into particulars. Mr. de Narbonne 'negotiated' with Brissot and Condorcet, then editors of *Le Patriote François*, and *La Chronique de Paris*, but the result was, that Mr. de Lessart, minister for foreign affairs, and Mr. B., then at the head of the marine, were attacked by them

them with additional asperity. Soon after this, all the members of the cabinet assembled, and determined to tempt the deputies, not only with the places in their gift, but also with 'the sum of 1,500,000 livres belonging to the department of foreign affairs, for secret expences, of which the minister for that department was not obliged to give an account to any body *but the king*;' The jacobins received notice of it, and rendered this scheme also abortive.

Lewis XVI actually employed the author after his dismissal from the marine department, to superintend and direct certain projects for influencing the legislature, the national guards, and the sections of the capital. One of these consisted in the enlisting a *corps* of 'observers,' in number thirty-five, maintained at an expence of 8000 livres a month. Another establishment of the same kind, but far more extensive, was estimated at 408,000 livres a year. Danton received more than 100,000 crowns, and this very man organised and directed the revolution of the 10th of august. The king himself assured the author that 'an ineffectual attempt to gain over the audience in the galleries of the assembly had cost the civil list more than 3,000,000 livres.'

However much we may be disposed to deplore the execution of the king, it must be allowed by all candid men, that the employment of the civil list, for such purposes, was highly criminal. The author every where praises his majesty's attachment to the constitution, but in addition to the above, his appointment of Mallet du Pan, on a secret mission to foreign courts, and the powers entrusted by him to the baron de Breteuil, then an emigrant, by which he was enabled to treat with the enemy, both of which facts are here recorded, render that circumstance very equivocal. It appears also, that his majesty had *secret advisers*, and that to them, and not to the public functionaries, he was accustomed to apply on all great occasions.

It was one of the greatest misfortunes of his reign to be married to Marie Antoinette, who appears to have been a princess of some talents, but strong and unaccommodating prejudices. The royal family might have escaped into Normandy, had not her majesty refused to owe her safety, and that of her husband and children, to the duke de Liancourt, merely because he was a *constitutionnel*, or, in other words, a friend to a limited monarchy!

On the whole, this work is interesting, and we have received considerable pleasure and much information from the perusal of it. The translation, which seems to be executed with spirit and fidelity, would have appeared to greater advantage, had more pains been bestowed in the correction of the proof sheets.

ART. XXXII. *A Narrative of the Proceedings of the British Fleet, commanded by Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. in the late Action with the Spanish Fleet, on the 14th of February, 1797, off Cape St. Vincent's. In a Letter to a Friend. Illustrated with eight Plans, shewing the Positions of the two Fleets at different Periods of that glorious and memorable Action. By an Officer of his Majesty's Land-forces. 4to. About 35 pages and 8 plates. Price 5s, sewed. Johnson. 1797.*

THIS letter, dated on board the 'Lively frigate, off the island of Scilly, february 27th, 1797,' appears to give a clear and explicit account of the action. Indeed, the very favourable position of the writer, during this memorable engagement, was such as to enable him to perceive the effect of the *british thunder* with his own eyes, and the circumstance of being out of all immediate danger, must, even to the bravest man, afford peculiar advantages, both in respect to minute inspection and general recollection.

'The british fleet,' says the author, 'or to use I believe a more correct term, the british squadron, consisted of fifteen sail of the line, four frigates, a sloop of war, and a cutter; viz. two of 100 guns, two of 98 guns, two of 90 guns. Total six three deckers, eight of 74 guns, and one of 64 guns. The spanish fleet was composed of twenty seven sail of the line, ten frigates, and one brig; viz. one of four decks, carrying 136 guns, six of three decks, each of 112 guns; two of 84 guns, and eighteen of 74 guns each.'

It appears from the index, that there was a difference of 1076 guns in favour of the spanish fleet.

The admirable manœuvres of sir J. Jervis evinced his superiority over his rival in naval tactics, and he had the good fortune to be ably seconded, as to the execution, by most excellent officers, particularly commodore Nelson, who, after the first encounter, prevented the spanish admiral from joining his ships to leeward, as he intended.

'This design, however, was frustrated by the timely opposition of commodore Nelson, whose place in the rear of the british line afforded him an opportunity of observing this manœuvre, and of penetrating the spanish admiral's intention. His ship, the Captain, had no sooner passed the rear of the enemy's ships that were to windward, than he ordered her to wear, and stood on the other tack towards the enemy. In executing this bold and decisive manœuvre, the commodore reached the sixth ship from the enemy's rear, which was the spanish admiral's own ship, the Santissima Trinidad, of 136 guns, a ship of four decks, and said to be the largest in the world. Notwithstanding the inequality of force, the commodore instantly engaged this colossal opponent, and for a considerable time had to contend not only with her, but with her seconds ahead and astern, of three decks each. While he maintained this unequal combat, which we viewed with admiration mixed with anxiety, his friends were flying to his support, and the enemy's attention was soon directed to the Culloden, captain Trowbridge, and in a short time after to the Blenheim, of 90 guns, captain Frederick, who opportunely came to their assistance. The intrepid conduct of the commodore, staggered the spanish admiral, who already appeared to waver in pursuing his intention of joining the ships cut off by the british fleet, when the Culloden's arrival, and captain Trowbridge's spirited support of the Captain, together with the approach of the Blenheim, followed by rear admiral Parker, with the Prince George, Orion, Irresistible, and Diadem, not far distant, determined the spanish admiral

admiral to change his design altogether, and to make the signal for the ships of his main body to haul their wind, and make sail on the larboard tack.

' Advantage was now apparent in favour of the british squadron, and not a moment was lost in improving it. As the ships of rear admiral Parker's division approached the enemy's ships, in support of the Captain, and her gallant seconds, the *Blenheim* and *Culloden*, the cannonade became more animated and impressive. The superiority of the british fire over that of the enemy, and its effects on the enemy's hulls and sails, were so evident, that we in the frigate no longer hesitated to pronounce a glorious termination of the contest.'

Commodore Nelson actually boarded two of the enemy's ships, and obliged them to strike.

' The coxswain of the commodore's barge had attended the commodore throughout this perilous adventure. To him the commodore gave in charge, the swords of the spanish officers as he received them; and the jolly tar, as they were delivered to him, tucked the honourable trophies under his arm, with all the *sang froid* imaginable.

' It was at this moment also that an honest jack tar, an old acquaintance of the commodore, came up to him in the fullness of his heart, and excusing the liberty he was taking, asked to shake him by the hand, to congratulate him on seeing him safe on the quarter deck of a spanish three-decker.'

The loss of the enemy, in point of men, appears to have been very great; that of the british in killed and wounded amounted only to three hundred. The execution effected by our squadron may be guessed by the quantity of ammunition used, which was great beyond example.

' The *Culloden* expended, it is said, one hundred and seventy barrels of powder; the Captain, one hundred and forty six, and the *Blenheim* one hundred and eighty; other ships expended in the same proportion. It is not unworthy of remark also, that not a single gun in the british squadron burst in this action. The Captain fired more shot than are usually given to a ship of her rate at the first equipment in England; and it was observed, that when shot or grape were wanting on board this ship for the cannonades, the tars substituted in their place nine pound shot, seven of which were frequently discharged at one time, and these at so short a distance, that every shot of the seven must have had effect.'

On the other hand, it must be allowed by every candid person, that the outfit of the enemy's squadron was contemptible in every point of view. The flag ships had no more than from sixty to eighty seamen on board! and after the first broadside, it was impossible to prevail, either by entreaties or threats, on the 'panic-struck wretches,' to go aloft to repair the rigging. The tom-pions were actually found in the muzzles of many of the guns, that ought to have been employed in the action; 'it was observed also, by several of the advanced divisions of the british squadron, that as soon as their guns were run out to repeat a broadside, the enemy appeared to them, invariably to quit their guns; and

it is thought, threw themselves prostrate on the deck, to escape, if possible, the effects of the discharge.'

On reading this very interesting account of the action off cape St. Vincent's, it struck us, that some trivial inaccuracy had taken place, relative to the names of several of the enemy's ships, and on looking at a spanish navy list, we accordingly find, that *Santissima Trinidad*, and not *Santissima Trinidade*, is the appellation by which the admiral's ship was known. The San Ysidro is written *San Isidro*, the *Salvador del Mondo*, *Salvador del Mundo*, &c. These, however, are errors scarcely worth mentioning. The plates will afford ample means of elucidation to every one, but they will be particularly serviceable to naval officers.

ART. XXXIII. *An historical Account of the City of Hereford, with some remarks on the River Wye, and the natural and artificial beauties contiguous to it's Banks, from Brobery to Wilton. Embellished with elegant Views, Plans &c.* By John Price. 8vo. 262 pages. Hereford, Walker; London, Faulder. 1796.

MR. Price has already appeared before the public in the character of a topographer. His 'account of Leominster' preceded that of 'Hereford,' and he seems to have conceived the design of describing all the most noted places in his native county.

The city of Hereford has been known by many different names. Some have supposed, although, with little probability, that it is the *Ariconium* of the romans. While in possession of the welsh it was called *Ereinuic*, according to some, and *Trefarwith* if we may believe others. The saxons are said by our author, to have termed it *Fernley*, but on looking into the works of a very popular antiquary *, we find the expression to be *Farnalega*, or *Fernalege*. The present name, which is also of saxon origin, is reported to have been derived from a *ford* in it's neighbourhood, where two contending nations, the saxons and welsh, were accustomed to pass the river Wye.

This city, exposed to the alternate outrage of the britons and saxons, began to decline, when the treacherous murder of Ethelbert, king of the east angles, by the intervention of Quendreda queen to Ossa, king of the mercians, occasioned a great and sudden increase of strength and riches; for a magnificent tomb was here erected over the body of the 'royal martyr,' and much land and tithe bequeathed to the clergy.

In 1056 Griffin prince of Wales attacked it, and carried it by storm, killed the inhabitants, and stripped the cathedral of all it's ornaments. The town itself, 'built with timber and covered with straw,' was at the same time reduced to ashes. In 1141 it was again taken by king Stephen, notwithstanding the reputation of it's being impregnable.

During the wars between king John and 'the rebellious barons,' Hereford declared for the former, but was forced to surrender to the earl of Leicester; and we find, 'that the chief aim in gaining the place was to secure the person of Peter de Aqua-blanca bishop of He-

* Grose's Antiquities of England and Wales, Vol. iv, p. 2.
Hereford;

Hereford; who had been accused of advising the king to a strange and intolerable kind of exaction, A.D. 1255, which much impoverished the clergy of that time.'

This city was also twice seized on by the parliament's army, during what Mr. P. terms the '*great rebellion.*'

Here follows a description of the place itself: 'Hereford, a bishop's see, is situated in a very fertile plain, encompassed with orchards, and very rich pasture and arable lands. The county to which it gives name, is peculiarly pleasant and fruitful, and has been called by way of eminence, *the garden of England.* The valleys and hills around it are enchanting; hop grounds and ruddy orchards presenting their gaudy bloom in all directions; and that no portion of land might interrupt the scene of general fertility, the ground between the apple-trees is mostly covered with grain. The city of Hereford is delightfully placed nearly in the centre of the county. The river Wye runs close by it on the south, and over it there is a very ancient stone bridge, erected in the year 1120, the building of which was much promoted by bishop de Capella.

'Hereford has been represented by writers who have copied one another, without ever examining the place, as built in a low marshy bottom, liable to be overflowed by the Wye. So far from this being the case, it is evidently the contrary, the situation being on a gentle eminence remarkably dry and healthy. This mistake is probably owing to one part of its suburbs having been known to suffer sometimes slight inconveniencies from that river. I mean those houses which stand on the south side of Wye-bridge, at the time of a very high flood.

'This city was formerly surrounded with a deep ditch and broad walls; the latter are even now standing, and, in some places, but little injured by the ravages of time. Some of the gates have been lately taken down, with a view of improving the entrance into the city; but the design has not been fully answered, the venerable aspect of the place being injured, without an adequate acquisition of elegance.

'Hereford lies in 2° 50' 40", west longitude, and 52° 7' 30", north latitude; distant from London, (by the Worcester road) 142 miles; through Gloucester, 137; from Worcester 32; from Gloucester 30; from Brecknock 35; and is in the direct line from London to South Wales. The number of houses and inhabitants within the walls, was stated by a very accurate survey, made about thirty years ago, to be as follows: houses 1279, inhabitants 5232. Since the time of this survey, the population of Hereford has undoubtedly increased, yet not upon that rapid and extensive scale, which we see in various other parts of the kingdom. The mansions lately erected in the city, have been mostly built upon an enlarged scale, on the sites of the ancient houses, though to be sure without the walls the number of dwellings is very considerably augmented. The city of Hereford, therefore, according to the opinions of the best informed persons, may be said to contain at the present time, within and without the walls, 1361 habitable houses, and 6007 inhabitants.'

This account of the city of Hereford seems to have been written with great care, and attention, and cannot fail to prove interesting to both natives, and inhabitants.

ART. XXXIV. *A History of the Bank of England, from the establishment of that Institution to the present Day; containing a succinct View of the extension of it's Capital and Credit; the effects of both; the Dangers with which it has been threatened at certain Periods, and the Measures adopted to maintain the Stability and Credit of it on those Occasions, interspersed with Reflections of the best financial Writers on the Subject. With an impartial Detail of the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament &c. with the report of the Committee &c.* 12mo. About 150 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Allen and Co. 1797.

WE are told in the preface, that bills and notes of hand were introduced into this country posteriour to the reformation, and that private banks were unknown, until a later period. The epoch is stated to be the reign of Charles I: but the stoppage of the money of the merchants, alluded to here as the origin of this opulent body, took place in the time of Charles II.

The bank of England, 'which has the greatest circulation of any bank of Europe, was originally projected by a merchant of the name of Patterfen, and established in the year 1694: the company was incorporated by parliament, in the 5th, and 6th, of William and Mary, in consideration of the loan of 1,200,000l. granted to the government, for which the subscribers received nearly 8 per cent. By an act of the 8th, and 9th, of William III. they were empowered to enlarge their capital stock to 2,201,171l. 10s. by another act of 7th of Anne, they were further empowered to augment their capital to 4,402,343l. on which they advanced 400,000l. more to government and in 1714, they granted another loan of 1,500,000l.

After surmounting all the alarms and difficulties incident to the South Sea scheme, and the rebellion of 1745-6, the credit of this great trading company received a terrible shock by a requisition dated Whitehall, February 26, 1797, forbidding the 'issuing of any cash in payment.'

We agree with the editor relative to the meritorious conduct of the late alderman Pickett, 'in the cause of the creditors of the bank of England;' his wish was, 'that the governor and directors of this establishment should be obliged to lay their accounts annually before the public.' Had this motion been carried, most of our present calamities would have been averted.

This is a very useful publication.

S.

STATISTICS.

ART. XXXV. *Statistique Elementaire, &c. Elementary Statistics, or an Essay on the geographical, physical, and political State of Switzerland.* By F. J. Durand, Minister of the Gospel, Professor in the Academy of Lausanne, &c. 4 vols 8vo, about 400 pages each. Price 1l. 1s. Printed at Lausanne in 1795, and imported by J. Deboffe, 1796.

PROFESSOR D., in a short introduction to these volumes, observes, that in order to know a state, it ought to be considered under the following heads:

1. It's

1. It's extent and exact measurement, which he terms *mathematical statistics*.

2. It's situation, both positive and relative, which he calls *topographical statistics*.

3. It's climate, or *physical statistics*.

And 4. The nature of it's government, and the *quantum* of it's commerce, manufactures, &c., which form it's *political statistics*.

He begins by observing, that the ancient Helvetia, confined between the Alps, the Rhine, the Rhone, and Jura, was less extensive than the present Switzerland, which, in addition to the territory here specified, has acquired the canton of Schaffhausen, the seven italian balliages, &c. Modern geographers, indeed, designate under this name all the country situate between the confines of Germany to the north and east, of Italy to the south, and of France to the west, occupied not only by the XIII cantons, but by various little states, either allied or subject to them. Hansen has calculated the number of french square miles contained in it, at 3028. Others have reckoned but 2660, Mr. Busching only 1100; this difference arises from the mode of estimation, some computing as if the country were a plain surface, and others taking the Alps into the account. The author of '*Le Dictionnaire de la Suisse*' makes it's greatest length to be 45 geographical miles, and it's breadth 34.

In the canton of Appenzell, the people are described as grave, venerable, and robust; 'they wear long beards, which remind us of the ancient patriarchs.'

According to Suicer, the city of Zurich was founded 1990 years before the christian era; the female citizens, on the 10th of april 1299, dressed themselves in men's apparel, and saved their country from falling a prey to Albert of Austria.

A little way from Küfnacht is a chapel erected to the memory of William Tell, in which the tragical end of the tyrant Gessler is represented in a painting in fresco, which is accompanied by the following inscription in german:

"Here the haughty Gessler was killed by Tell.

This place was the cradle of swiss liberty in 1307.

How long will it endure?

As long as we resemble our ancestors."

Not far from this spot is Gersau, the least populous republic in Europe; it is only two leagues in length, and one in breadth, with a town containing 1000 inhabitants, whereas the *republichetta* of St. Marino, although less in point of extent, possesses not only a town, but two large, and five less considerable villages.

In the canton of Uri, a thousand different objects interest the traveller. The spot on which tyranny erected the castle termed *Bride-Uri*; the market-place at Altorf, in which was planted the pole, at the end of which Gessler caused his hat to be suspended; the ground on which Tell is supposed to have stood when he was so fortunate as to hit the apple placed on the head of a beloved son; the ruins of the house of the respectable Walter Fürst

Fürst, with whom young Melchthal and Werner de Stauffacher, after having so often lamented the fate of their unhappy country, at length agreed on the sublime project of delivering it; those chapels and monuments erected in honour of William Tell, in the places where he was born, where he dwelt, and where he alighted from the boat: in short every thing in this canton recalls magnanimous sensations. The sight of the memorable plain of Grütlin is alone sufficient to warm a heart replete with sensibility. It was there that the aurora of helvetic liberty first dawned. It was within it's boundaries, and under the shade of it's ancient trees, that, in 1307, the first confederates leagued together, and it was there, in 1313, that the magistrates and deputies elected by the three cantons of Uri, Schwitz, and Underwald, forming in all an assembly of 300 freemen, ratified this alliance, and consecrated it by means of new oaths.

The houses of Bâle are adorned with figures of the sun, a bear, a hog, &c., which are generally accompanied with mottoes: the following is one of them:

*“ En Dieu je mets tout mon espoir,
Et je demeure au cochon noir.”*

In chap. iv we are told, that Swisserland is the most elevated country in Europe. In its mountains the Inn, the Rhine, the Rhone, the Tesin, &c., have their respective sources, and it was observed by the chevalier de Boufflers, ‘that from the top of St. Gothard, a man might spit either into the Mediterranean or the ocean.’

The convent of the capuchins of St. Gothard stands $873\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms above the lake Lemman, which lake is $187\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms above the level of the Mediterranean. The point of Fieud, one of the highest of the Alps, is 1190 fathoms two feet above the lake of Geneva, according to Saussure. These facts in some measure justify the bold imagery of Voltaire:

*“ ————— ces monts audacieux,
Qui pressent les enfers & qui fendent les cieux.”*

Mont Pilate, supposed to be so called from *pileatus*, as it's summit is generally capped with clouds, does not belong to the chain of the Alps. It's circumference is a dozen miles in extent, and it is intirely insulated, ‘springing out of the plain like a giant.’ General Pfyffer, who has measured it with great exactness, reckons the summit at 5586 feet above the level of the sea. This peak serves the inhabitants in the neighbourhood by way of a barometer: when the clouds hang on the top, it prognosticates fine weather, and when they envelope it all the way down to the base, rain is expected.

No country possesses so many rivers, rivulets, and rills, as Switzerland: it's lakes amount to more than one hundred and thirty. The population is here estimated at 1855100. Of this mass Zurich is supposed to contain 175,000, Zoug 20,000, Gerfa

Gerfau 1,000, Schwitz, 23,000, Glaris 16,000, Uri and its vallies 26,000, Geneva 34,000, Lucerne 100,000, Berne 374,000, and Bâle 40,000.

Some calculators affirm, that during the last forty years more girls than boys have been born, and that the difference in some places is such, as to astonish strangers. It is also observed, that the race is evidently seen to degenerate wherever the people apply themselves to the spinning of cotton.

Before the confederation, there were fifty families in Switzerland that claimed the title of count, 150 that of baron, and there were more than 1000 chevaliers. In the democratic cantons, among the Grisons, Valais, at Geneva, Bienne, &c., the nobility do not possess any prerogatives whatever. In the aristocratic ones, their condition varies. At Bâle, for example, they are excluded from public offices; at Fribourg, certain employments are bestowed on patricians alone. At Lucerne, all the members of the little council, and all their descendants, are considered as nobles; but in other states, before they are admitted into the senate, they must renounce all pretensions, not only to nobility, but even to *chevalry*, or knighthood.

There is a material distinction between the nobles and vassals. The latter are the rich *roturiers*, or plebeians who have purchased fiefs, and some of these are so small, that, as Cicero says, on a similar occasion: 'one of them might be put into a sling, were there not some danger of its dropping through the hole at the bottom.'

According to Simler, lib. 11, de Republica, 'The cold regions of the Alps produce the tallest and most vigorous trees, and they are covered with the largest cattle, while the men born there are towering in point of stature, and possess the most vigorous bodies.'

While mentioning the three public libraries of Zurich, the professor observes, that the late Mr. Hollis presented them with all the works then printed against the jesuits, in bindings adorned with daggers and screech owls, with a present of 100 ducats, to purchase others as they were published. He has, however, forgotten to mention, that this same gentleman also sent them copies of his quarto editions of Milton, Sidney, Locke, Ludlow, &c., adorned with caps of liberty.

Such is said to be the simplicity that still prevails in some remote parts of Switzerland, that neither attorney nor notary is to be found there; that contracts are inscribed on pieces of wood, in stead of parchment; and that there are neither locks, nor thieves, nor pilferers. The valley of Praborgne, in the *dixain* of Visp, is cited as one of these.

Under the head of 'vegetable kingdom,' we are told that Haller, who published the history of the Helvetian plants, has enumerated 2,500 different species. The pine tree is represented as attaining the height of 150 feet. Schaffhausen is said to produce some good red wines, and in the Valtelline we are told, 'it is no uncommon thing to find four hundred and sixty *pips* in each separate grape, which is sometimes as large as a pigeon's egg.'

The

The fertility of that part of the territory of the Grisons is represented to be such, that a field, ploughed by a single ox, produces first a crop of corn, secondly, another of Turkey, or India wheat, afterwards radishes, and lastly, fruits and vintage. The amount of the annual exportation of wines is estimated at about 73,000 *louis d'or*.

The peasantry, notwithstanding all this, are the least happy of any in Switzerland. Cabins which exhibit the appearance of misery, children who have scarcely rags to cover them, and families which in unfavourable seasons have no other aliment than the husks of the grape, reduced to a paste, with a little meal, confirm the melancholy assertions of different travellers.

Such is the variation in the temperature of the air, that the rose and the campanula are often observed to rear their heads amid the ice, while the native plants of Greenland and Lapland are not far distant from those of Italy and Spain. Tobacco is much cultivated and used by the natives.

Hemp, which is also produced in large quantities, according to Haller, may be converted to the following uses:

1. The prime parts can be manufactured into sail cloth, cordage, &c.
2. The refuse into coarse paper.
3. The stalks into excellent charcoal for gun-powder.
4. The leaves may be smoked like tobacco, as they produce similar effects.

Potatoes are said to be the *manna* that feed the swiss as well as the irish during the winter.

The author wishes to rescue his countrymen from the disgrace of selling their services to foreign powers, and aiding the most execrable tyrants in their designs, but the following couplet of Voltaire will be remembered, when his very feeble apology is forgotten:

* *Barbares dont la guerre est l'unique metier,
Et qui vendent leur sang à qui veut le payer ?*

Properly speaking there are only four aristocracies, viz. Berne, Lucerne, Fribourg, and Soleure, in the 13 cantons. The six democracies are Uri, Schwitz, Underwalden, Zoug, Glaris, and Appenzell, and the three mixed governments those of Zurich, Bale, and Schaffhausen.

In the civil courts of the three leagues of the grisons, no advocates are admitted, lest they should perplex, puzzle, and instead of procuring a speedy determination, prolong the process.

Beside the subjects we have lightly touched upon, Mr. D. treats on the ancient and modern state of religion, the agriculture, the manufactures, the particular and general governments of each and all the cantons, the revenues, the military establishment, the national productions, antiquities, &c.

The express design of the work now before us is to make the inhabitants, more especially the rising generation, attached to their country. But a veneration for any particular spot, merely
con.

considered as the place of our nativity, is a despicable prejudice. We ought to esteem our country, in so far only as it excels others.

On the present occasion, this reverend author seems to have committed, what he perhaps may be inclined to justify under the idea of a *pious fraud*. The venality of some of the cantons, although notorious, he carefully conceals. He apologises for, instead of condemning the mercenary principle of selling troops to foreign nations, and not a single word is said of the oppressions committed by the aristocracy of Berne on some of the states unfortunately subject to it. Switzerland is assuredly one of the freest and happiest countries in Europe, but it is rank and gross servility in a historian to trumpet forth its excellencies, and at the same time carefully avoid the enumeration of its defects.

It is but justice to Mr. Coxe to observe, that professor D. has borrowed largely from his work. s.

NOVELS.

ART. XXXVI. *Family Secrets, Literary and Domestic*. By Mr. Pratt. In 5 vols. 12mo. 2350 pages. Price 1l. 5s. in boards. Longman. 1797.

WE certainly felt not a little intimidated at the fatigue we expected to undergo, in travelling through a novel of TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PAGES! Recollecting, however, the abundant and valuable 'gleanings,' which Mr. Pratt picked up, in a tour through Wales, Holland, and Westphalia, (See *Anal. Rev.* vol. xxiii, p. 9) and the taste as well as industry which he displayed in forming the collection, so fanciful and curious, our spirits revived, and we relied with considerable confidence, that our guide would not fail to lead us through some rich and diversified scenery, and that he would kindly beguile the length of the journey, by the comfortable accommodations and the agreeable refreshment he would offer us on the road. We set out, therefore, in very good humour, calling Smelfungus and Mundungus a couple of sulky fools; and 'clapping our hands cheerily together,' determined, if possible, to find out something or other to call forth the affections, even if we should be led into a desert; and if we could not do better, fasten them, like Yorick, upon some sweet myrtle, or seek some melancholy cypress—court their shade, and greet them for protection. 'I would swear,' quoth Yorick, 'they were the loveliest trees throughout the desert; if their leaves withered, I would teach myself to mourn; and when they rejoiced, I would rejoice along with them.'

It is impossible to sketch for our readers the story which runs through these volumes; our pentagraphic powers, we acknowledge, are unequal to reduce it within so small a compass, as the nature of a Review requires: we can only make a few general observations on particular characters and particular incidents, and offer one or two extracts to enliven the article, and afford a specimen of the style.

In

In his preface, or rather, in his dedication of the first volume, Mr. P. tells us, that he has ventured to denominate his work, *literary* as well as domestic, because of the literary conversations which he has interwoven, and 'which are intended as an experiment, how far such a plan may tend to exalt the character without diminishing the interest of this species of composition.' As novels meet with the most general perusal among the young and the idle, the giddy and the gay, every effort is meritorious to render them moral and instructive; by making pleasure the medium of information, many, who would not otherwise trouble themselves about it, willingly imbibe the latter for the sake of the former. Mr. P., therefore, when he brings us into the fire-side circle of Fitzorton castle, and discusses, in easy untechnical language, some question of moral sentiment or polite literature, strips instruction of the frowns and wrinkles with which her features are too frequently shaded, and decks her countenance with smiles.

Respecting the various characters concerned in these Family Secrets, that of sir Armine Fitzorton is supported with spirit and congruity; except, perhaps, that his behaviour concerning the marriage of Henry and Olivia is inconsistent with a character, otherwise lovely and venerable. The taciturn influence of Mr. Clare's pipe prevents us from discovering any striking trait, except his generosity. Sir Guise Stuart is extravagantly depraved; by far too brutal and ferocious—a rank coward in the first volume, and heading a party of highwaymen in the third—the tyranny of the father, with the timidity and filial obedience of the daughter Caroline, favours too much of the novel. As to the three brothers, John, James, and Henry, the character of the eldest, John, is a remarkably fine one, and remarkably well supported: a man of exquisite feelings, labouring with industry and anguish to subdue them: struggling through a whole life to conceal the pangs of an aching heart, and stimulating the serenity which he could not feel, for the purpose of diffusing it around him. In scenes which most keenly affected him, as he stood 'in deep-revolving thought,' often would John

—— stroke his dark-brown cheek
And turne his head asyde,
To whipe away the starting teare
He proudly strave to hyde!

CHILD OF EBLE—PERCY.

The placid equanimity of James could remain unruffled in the tumult of a whirlwind: like another Lear, he could stand 'the pelting of the pitiless storm' unmoved—but not like him, court the fury of the elements from distraction. Henry—poor fellow,

—— is all bathed in tears;
He lives upon a sigh for years!

Always in his enthusiasms and poeticals; there is a great deal too much pining and whining about him; the dignified and manly grief of John is oftentimes very highly affecting, but the sniveling sorrows of Henry quite sicken us. The bewitching little rogue Olivia,

so playful, so happy, and so very affectionate, makes us in love with her; Caroline, amiable and interesting, is too timid and obedient to so cruel and unnatural a father as sir Guise. When once we are reconciled to the left-handed compliments of that 'insufferable scoundrel' Partington, we feel a very high respect for him; Mr. P. informs us, that the original from which this character is copied is yet in existence; may the 'good-for-nothing rascal' enjoy many a year of tranquillity and happiness!

Our limits require the omission of some other characters, less peculiar and original.

With respect to the incidents, or what may be called the *machinery* of the novel, it is of various merit; some of the scenes are natural, some extremely otherwise. In the death-scene of the first lady Stuart, the behaviour of the father, and the behaviour of the son, are equally extravagant; and the departure of the latter on the ensuing morning is highly unnatural. We hardly think it possible that Olivia's simplicity should so long delude her, as to the love of Henry; the delusion, however, being necessary to the story, Mr. P. has displayed considerable skill in supporting it, and Olivia is never more interesting, than when the confession of Henry's attachment to Caroline is lingering on his lips, and she drives it by a torrent of affection back into the recesses of his bosom. The interview between sir Guise Stuart and Miles, in the second volume, is extravagant; and the amour of Henry with Mrs. Tempest tastes again of the novel. In the fourth volume is a great deal too much about Mr. Dabble and Mr. Miles; and the battle royal, described in the third and fourth chapters, is too absurd even to be ludicrous: nay, the character of John, otherwise well supported, loses its dignity.—In the last volume, the fright of Caroline at the suspected murder of Henry is forced and unnatural, and the subterraneous conspiracy of Mrs. Tempest, &c., at the abbey, is extravagant.

After these strictures, according to our promise, we proceed to enliven the article with an extract; the following adventure occurred to the three brothers, at an early age:—VOL. I, P. 45.

'One day when the same party were assembled, and the discourse had taken a similar turn, John attacking human nature, Henry defending it, and James acting as a check on both, a poor man with every appearance of the most abject wretchedness; his limbs almost as tattered as the garments that covered them; a patch on his eye, and both his legs tucked under stumps, assailed their pity. "What's the odds now," said John, "that this is not a damn'd rogue? Here, fellow, keep the tricks which you are preparing to play off upon us for the next traveller; and, for once, I will make it your interest to tell the truth," throwing sixpence into his hat; "confess, are not you a sad hypocrite? and were not you on the point of telling us a pack of pity-moving lies?" "Pie, brother!" said James, "you have no right to insult, if you do not choose to relieve the man. His misfortune is sufficiently obvious, however it may have been induced." Hereupon, the mendicant began the cant of his profession, which drew from Henry an additional shilling. "Nay," said John, "there are very few of the best dressed beggars have virtue enough to refuse falsehood, when they are paid double for it."

"Are

"Are there no such things then as principles?" said Henry:—"Not amongst beggars, in high or in low life," rejoined John. "There, fellow, as you cannot serve God and Mammon, take your choice, a rogue or an honest man?—my sixpence, or his shilling."—"Lord, you're a merry gentleman. I like both, an't please your honour, and God bless you!"—"There, I told you so," said John, "a damn'd rogue!"—Henry smiled, "The good man would offend neither of you; so accepts the bounty of both," observed James, joining their pleasantry. "Well," answered John, "I need not say who is the rogue, but I know who are the fools." At this instant, a post-chaise passing rapidly was met by another carriage, and overset, the driver was thrown, and the horses were dragging the carriage. The three brothers assisted: the beggar instantly drew the patch from his eye, disincumbered his legs, tucked the stumps under his arm, and passed them. The accident happening within a short distance from the family mansion, James proposed sending for sir Armine's carriage.—"What occasion for carriages?" cried the beggar, catching the lady in his arms, and running off with her, "I warrant the gentleman, who don't seem much hurt, will follow." The three brothers entered the apartment just as the beggar, having procured every accommodation the castle afforded, set off for the village apothecary with incredible speed. He returned with some hartshorn. "There, an please your ladyship, that will bring you about—pure strong—has taken away my breath, and, I hope, it will bring back yours."

The lady was now recovering apace. The gentleman had received little injury. Sir Armine and lady Fitzorton were from home. The apothecary followed his hartshorn; the cure was soon perform'd; for the mischief consisted rather in alarm than injury, and the travellers pursued their journey. The tumult of circumstances now subsiding, the brothers had leisure to advert to the metamorphosis of the beggar. "Well!" said John to Henry, "and who is in the right now? a rogue or no rogue? why, what's become of your timber Mr. Beggar?"—"The Lord knows," replied the beggar, archly: "I hope, gentlemen, you have not left my legs behind you." "To be sure," said James, "they must be consider'd as part of the accident." "O, he can do very well without them, I see," said John. "I beg your pardon there," answer'd the beggar, "I should starve without them: I use these things," pointing to his natural legs, "only upon extraordinary occasions: but my timber is my staple commodity—well, God save your honours—I must go look after my support." The facetious mendicant was bowing out, leaving his company not a little amus'd and delighted with him, when John caught his hand—"You are a fine fellow! and yet you must be a rogue too! or else those legs would have carried you into a much more reputable business." The beggar shook his head!—"However," continued John, "if all the extraordinary occasions upon which you use them are like the present, 'tis pity you should ever again tuck them behind you. So here's something to keep them in repair," giving him a crown-piece—"and here's a trifle," added Henry, pouring out the contents of his purse, "to buy you a new pair."—"Now that's an encouragement to the scoundrel

scoundrel part of him," said John! "I think, indeed," said James, "half a crown a piece would have been a more just division," "All, an' please your honour," replied the man, "its very well as it is: but for that matter, I would not take a dozen purses for my stumps, and yet I'm no scoundrel neither; Ah! gentlefolks, if you knew but their history!—but that's no matter," added he, fetching a deep sigh. Tears gush'd to his eyes, and he turn'd away his face.—"Poor fellow," said Mr. Burton, "you have made a mistake; here is sixpence coming to you out of your shilling." "I forgot that, matter," answer'd the beggar; "however, I'll take the tester." "I hope," whisper'd James to John, "you will allow, though it was only in the division of a shilling, that this action of our apothecary tells to his honesty, when you remember that, his large family and slender means of supporting it, make every sixpence a matter of consequence." "Say you so," cried the mendicant. "The heart beneath these many-colour'd rags," cried Henry, "would give dignity to ermine." "Who would be the loser then," said the beggar? "A noble fellow," exclaim'd John, "in spite of his stumps." Henry shook him heartily by the hand, in doing which, one of the tatters of our beggar's coat of patches, got entangled in one of Henry's wrought buttons, and, as is generally the case, when the weak and poor come into contact with the strong and splendid, fell to the ground. Henry expressed regret. "Bless your honour, no consequence, only I must net lose it:—'Tis a little bit of my property," said the beggar, stooping to pick up the remnant. "Thou shalt have a new suit," said Henry. "Your honour's all goodness, but that would be my ruin. Every rag about me, is, at a moderate computation, worth a guinea: but, as I have a poor bedridden father, who has no objection to having a good coat upon his back: and as your honour's bounty has enabled me to give him one, his son shall bless you with his last breath, although, he should live to wear out a whole forest in stumps." Sir Armine, here, took the beggar a moment aside; after which, the latter smiled merrily on the company, and seeing the apothecary making his bows to the family, exclaim'd, "And now if you please Master Doctor, I will purchase a few things for poor father in your way." They went out together.

To this we add the following description of 'True George's' virgin kiss to Jenny Atwood.—Corporal Trim could not possibly have told the story with more simplicity and nature:

VOL. IV, P. 72.—'All these tidings had their due portion of effect on the gentle bosom of Jane. She was alike sensible to the generosity and tenderness of her lover, who was overpaid for the decided, active, and affectionate part he had taken in these operations, by a reward which he swore he should feel to the moment of his death; for, on the evening of these events, when they had an opportunity to dilate them over a dish of tea in Jane's sitting parlour, this amiable unfortunate ran into a comparison betwixt her present and her former lover, and found the contrast so striking, that George reading, perhaps, a permission in her eyes, ventured to profit of it by saluting her with more evident marks of softness than he had dared to do before. "You must know, an't please your Honour,"

said the enraptured youth, glowing with pleasure at this instance of recollected fondness long after it had happened, with as much ardour as if it had the freshness of the moment—"You must know, your Honour," said he to Henry, "as I was sitting with Jane's poor baby on my lap, for I love the child, your honour, as much as I hate the father—and Jane being sweetening my tea as she sat in a chair by me, I thought I never saw her look so pretty, nor yet so kind, though she said never a syllable, and only sighed softly about twice, so I hitched my chair a bit closer, and leaning to her's, I said, Jane, you must not be angry, for I cannot help it; upon my soul, Jane, I could not help it if you were to hate me for it. With that I gave her a kiss—such a kiss, an't like, your honour, as quite went through my blood like a high fever. 'Hate you, George!' said she, as my lips were close to her's, and with that she—no it could not be called quite a kiss to be sure—though it was e'en almost one too—then she put her dear cheek to mine, and I felt her breathe upon my heart as plain as I now feel my heart beat against my hand, your honour. 'O George, that I had been still a good virtuous girl for your sake. If I hate any body it is myself—yes, I hate only my detested self.' She shed tears as she turned her eyes on the child, whose little hand went all over her poor mother's wet face—I then saluted her afresh, the baby too, and I am sure it was then that Mrs. Jane gave me kifs for kifs."

In the volumes before us are several beautiful and affecting strokes of nature; but many of the scenes are extremely tedious, and we are persuaded, that Mr. P. might have told all his Family Secrets in three or four volumes with better effect, and have delineated his characters with equal accuracy. In spite of the good humour with which we set off, we confess ourselves to have been somewhat tired of our journey before we arrived at the end.

ART. XXXV II. *Ulric and Ilvina; The Scandinavian Tale.* In 2 Vols. 12mo. 264 pages. Price 4s. sewed. Allen and West.

In a poetical preface to this gothic tale, the author informs us, personifying his 'infant muse,' that

"—— Scarce on her youthful head,
Have eighteen suns their genial influence shed."

Ulric, king of Ofel and Dago, two islands in the Baltic, sails, attended by an army, to the coast of Sweden, to lay siege to the fortress of Hedemora, and rescue his mistress Ilvina, who had been ravished from him by Lodrog, a swedish chief. The conflict is described in a sort of measured prose, and, after various fluctuations and vicissitudes of fortune, poetic justice is awarded to all parties. Considering the youth of the author, the performance, consisting principally of descriptions of battles, is not devoid of merit. The language is gothic and appropriate; several pieces of poetry are interspersed, from which we select, as a specimen, part of an ode to Liberty, personified in the masculine gender, as a god, for which deviation from classical usage the writer gives his reasons in a note. Vol. II. P. 116.

"Sublimè in air the god's gigantic form
Trode on the lightnings and defied the storm,

His

His flashing eye-balls blaz'd with heav'nly blue,
Wide to the blast his hair unfetter'd flew.
His heav'nly visage gleam'd with radiant light,
Loose round his limbs was thrown his robe of white.
Bending from heaven's high vault, the god-head spoke,
Loud as the thunder's roar, his awful accents broke.

' Sons of the North, once Freedom's dearest care,
Once more in arms your scar-worn limbs array :
Rouse your tough souls, once more for Freedom dare,
Awake from slav'ry's night, to Freedom's day.

Through the fleely ranks of war,
Urge the madding scythed car ;
Headlong o'er the blood-drench'd plain,
Drive the despot's dastard train.

Ye ancient chiefs unconquerably bold,
Whose blood once stream'd in Freedom's holy cause ;
Rise from the grave, indignantly behold
The despot's triumph o'er your country's laws ;
Rise from the grave, ye dauntless in the fight,
Inspire your dastard sons, and string their nerves with might.

' O Scandinavia ! thy once-smiling plains
No more are gilt by freedom's genial day :
A moonless night of despotism reigns,
Uncheer'd by smiling hope's enliv'ning ray.
Peace and plenty charm no more,
Banish'd from the wretched shore ;
They forsake their ancient reign,
Gall'd by despotism's chain.

Rouse then, my sons, e'er crush'd by weightier woes,
Your callous souls are dead to freedom's glow :
Direct your efforts 'gainst your country's foes,
Whilst yet your spirit dares to deal the blow :
In Freedom's cause your ardent fronts uprear,
Revenge the guileless blood, revenge the grief-wrung tear.

' As when advancing from the placid west,
Comes pale-ey'd evening, clad in russet vest,
Mildly she steals upon each yielding mind,
Her horrent shadows lurking far behind ;
Till sol retir'd, she free and uncontrol'd
Usurps his power, and lords it o'er the world ;
So despotism, with slow, though sure advance,
She first assumes her power, then shakes her purpl'd lance.

ART. XXXVIII. *The Genius, or the Mysterious Adventures of Don Carlos de Grandez*. By the Marquis von Grosse. Translated from the German. By Joseph Trapp. 2 Vols. 12mo. 444 pages. Price 6s. sewed. 1797.

THIS novel is abridged from a translation from the original german (of *****), entitled 'Horrid Mysteries,' but is much inferior to 'The Dagger' by the same author. The story, like that of 'Herman of Unna,' turns upon a secret, and self erected tribunal, who mysteriously take cognizance of, judge, reward, or punish, the most private and personal

personal transactions. The performance is very unequal, some scenes, of the terrible kind, exhibiting the german force and passion, others affording a monstrous and ludicrous combination of wildness and absurdity, the whole ill-connected and very negligently written.

ART. XXXIX. *The Neapolitan; or the Test of Integrity. A Novel.*
By Ellen of Exeter. 3 Vols. 12mo. 713 pages. Price 10s. 6d.
sewed. Lane.

THE Neapolitan, improperly entitled a novel, is a romance, formed, as we are told in the preface, upon an authentic narrative, inserted some years ago, in a periodical publication of Mr. Cumberland's. We do not recollect the narration from which our author draws her materials, but we are inclined to suspect, that she has, by her *scrupulosity*, in some measure spoiled it. The principal incident upon which the present story turns, is the persevering and barbarous persecution which count Marulli, an italian nobleman, suffers from Fernandes Dacunha, who had been his tutor, and whose daughter Josepha (according to this writer) he had married, with the consent of her father, who, at the same time, by his machinations, defrauds the count of his rightful inheritance. Dacunha, after having permitted the marriage, meditates, without any *new* or *apparent* cause, the destruction of his son-in-law, which he bribes an accomplice, a medical man, to effect by poison. The portion, by mistake, is administered to Josepha, who, dying, discovers from the frenzied sorrow of her father, the diabolical plan, and extorts an oath from her husband, to whom it is also partially revealed, that he will never discover the secret, (even though his own life should be at stake) to the prejudice of her father. This oath he inviolably observes, notwithstanding a variety of contrivances made use of by Dacunha to destroy him, from no apparent or adequate motives; but under the pretence of avenging the murder of his daughter, which he affects to charge upon her husband. Marulli, at length, expires upon the rack, a sacrifice to his integrity. In the story of Mr. Cumberland, our author informs us, that Marulli was not the husband but the *lover* of Josepha. But in compliance with the *delicacy* of her female readers, she chose to give Josepha a *legal* title to their pity and sympathy. By which, we cannot help calling it ridiculous, prudery, the whole of Dacunha's conduct is rendered absurd and improbable. The behaviour of the sister of Marulli, which forms a series of incidents, connected with the principal narration, is liable to the same objections: probability and consistency are continually violated. Had our fair author, who *affectedly* styles herself Ellen of Exeter, consulted the judgment of a judicious friend, while her production was in manuscript, these incongruities might in all probability have been avoided. The whole performance, though many parts of it have merit, bears the marks of haste and inattention. As a composition, it would not have been ill written, but for an unpardonable negligence, by which a variety of passages are rendered so obscure as to be absolutely unintelligible. With greater care and pains, we have little doubt but the writer may be able to produce, in future, a much better performance, for which reason we have more critically attended to the defects of the present. Nothing great or valuable can be achieved without labour.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

HISTORY OF ACADEMIES.

ART. I. Petersburg. *Preißschriften und Abhandlungen des Kaiserlich Freyen Economischen Gesellschaft, &c.* Prize Papers and Essays of the Imperial Free Œconomical Society at Petersburg. Vol. I. 8vo. 281 p. 11 plates. 1796.

The essays here given may be recommended as select. They are
 1. On the purification of the air of rooms; by Mr. Friebe. A very valuable paper. 2. Sketch of a magazine for corn, in which corn may not only be kept uninjured for years, without any labour, but is secured from the attacks of mice and vermin; by G. F. Engelmann. The plan of Mr. E. is somewhat expensive: it's principle is the exclusion of air from corn previously well dried. 3. Use of the reindeer and iceland moss as fodder for cattle; by Mr. Ornæus. 4. Chemical analysis of the edible earth, as it is called; by aulic couns. Laxmann. This earth is found in the neighbourhood of Ochotsk, on granitic ridges, and in the craters of old volcanoes. The tungooses and lamoots eat it with reindeer's milk, and present it to travellers of consequence. It has no nutritious matter in it, however, and must be prejudicial from it's insolubility. 5. On the building of streets in towns; by Paul Eberhard Schroeter. 6. Description of an asthmaic disease of horned cattle, with remarks. An infusion of tobacco did great service in this disease, which had proved very fatal. 7. Description of a handmill for corn; by Mr. Dalgreen. A very simple and useful machine. 8. On the purification of the spoiled air of rooms; by Dr. Formey. 9. On the preparation of soda in the great; by Mr. Pallas. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

SURGERY.

ART. II. Berlin. *Neue medicinisch-chirurgische Beobachtungen, &c.* New Medico-chirurgical Observations by Chr. Lew. Murfinna, third Surgeon-general, &c. 8vo. 562 p.

If such a book as this were to appear once in a decade, the art of surgery would be highly benefitted. Mr. M. is a man accustomed to act on sound rational principles, neglecting nothing that is necessary however trifling, leaving nothing to chance, yet doing no more than the case requires. Accordingly he describes all the cases he gives, and the operations he had occasion to perform, with great simplicity, clearness, and circumstantiality; so that his book will be found highly instructive to the young practitioner, as well as to the experienced surgeon. It would be useless to particularise the cases, a great number of which consist of gunshot wounds, cuts, and stabs. We shall just notice, that Mr. M. speaks of having operated on ninety five patients for the hydrocele, all of whom recovered without any ill-consequences. His practice is to discharge the water by simple incision, and then fill the tunica vaginalis with dry lint. The usual time of cure was six or seven weeks. In dysentery the

flowers of *arnica montana* appear to have been of excellent service. They were so in putrid dysentery, where opium was evidently detrimental. An animated account of the manners, way of life, and diseases, of the miserably neglected yet well-disposed poles concludes the work.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

MATHEMATICS.

ART. III. Leipzig. *Formulae de Serierum Reversione Demonstratio universalis, Signis localibus Combinatorio-analyticorum vicariis exhibitae.* By H. A. Rothe. 4to. 44 p. 1793.

This tract is not calculated for the tyro in mathematics, though it will be highly prized by the adept, at least if he be acquainted with the language of prof. Hindenburg, which is necessary to enable him to go along with the author.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

GEOGRAPHY.

ART. IV. *Lubeck and Leipzig.* Mr. Meiners has published the 2d volume of his *Reflections on the principal Countries of Asia* [see our Rev. Vol. xxv, p. 557], and though we expected something valuable in it, we confess it exceeds our expectations.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

ART. V. Nuremberg. C. Fred. W. Glasers *Beschreibung einer neu erfundenen Studier- und Sparlampe, &c.* Description of a newly invented economical Lamp for Students, calculated for preserving the Eyes, and attended with some other Advantages. 8vo. 39 p. 5 plates. 1796.

This lamp is formed on the principle of Argand's, but the oil is contained in a wooden vessel, on which the glass tube is screwed, and this tube is surrounded with another of larger dimensions, so that a solution of verdigrease in vinegar may be contained within them, to render the light less prejudicial to the eyes. [Would not a cylinder of green glass answer the same purpose? We have tried one of blue glass, and the light emitted through it was sufficiently pleasant to the eye, but so much diminished in strength that we laid it aside.] A moveable mirror is added, to throw the light wherever required.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ART. VI. Gottingen. *Beschreibung eines neu erfundenen Geblases, &c.* Description of a new-invented Pair of Bellows, by Jos. Baader, M. D. 4to. 38 p. 5 plates. 1794.

These bellows are at bottom nothing more than the cylindrical bellows; but the office of the piston is performed by a cylinder of somewhat smaller diameter than the outer one, which is nearly half filled with water. Its advantages consist in the ease and cheapness of its structure, and its small degree of friction.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

CLASSICAL LITERATURE.

- ART. VII. Züllichau. *Psychologia Homerica, &c.* The Psychology of Homer, or A Commentary on Homer's Knowledge or Opinions respecting the Soul. By C. W. Halbkart. 8vo. 128 p. 1796.

This commentary has merit, and many good remarks will be found in it. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

HISTORY.

- ART. VIII. Altona and Leipzig. *Ueber mein Schicksal, &c.* On my Lot (a Manuscript for my Friends), by C. Fred. Cramer. 8vo. 285 p. 1795.

This volume must not be overlooked as a document towards the history of the times. The author having advertised a translation of such of Petion's works as related to legislation [see our Rev. Vol. XV, p. 85], and spoken of him with the praise he deserved in his advertisement, received a severe reprimand from the government, with a requisition to know how he could speak in such terms of such a man. To this he gave a very modest answer, justifying himself by an appeal to facts. Upon this he was dismissed from his professorship at Kiel, with an allowance, as a special favour, of half his salary as a pension [about 60*l.*], 'provided he would avoid all propagation of his principles.' His colleagues joined in a petition against his dismissal, in which they gave him a very high character as a man of worth, but to no purpose. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

POETRY.

- ART. IX. Leipzig. *Die heiligen Gräber zu Kom und die Gebete, &c.* The holy Sepulchres at Kom and the Prayers. Two satirical Poems by J. D. Falk. 8vo. 272 p. 1796.

The celebrated Wieland says of these poems, that 'the spirits of Aristophanes, Horace, Lucian, Juvenal, Swift, and Hogarth, have undoubtedly descended to install the author a satiric poet.' They have merited a place in the *index expurgatorius* of Vienna, which, whether it be that authors assume more license, or the censors of the press grow more fastidious, seems to increase pretty fast, as the number of pieces prohibited in the last summer quarter amounts to two hundred and thirty nine. From what we know of some of these, however, the irritability of the austrian government must be very great, for it appears to start at every thing that may tend to give people any knowledge of the present state of things. By the same author is the following work:

- ART. X. *Taschenbuch für Freunde des Scherzes und Satire, &c.*—A Pocket-Book for the Friends of Jest and Satire. With an allegorical Engraving of the Kantish Philosophy, and a Calendar for 1797.

MISCELLANIES.

ART. XI. Breslaw. *Versuche über verschiedene Gegenstände aus der Moral, &c.* Essays on various Subjects relative to Morals, Literature, and Social Life, by Christian Garve. 2 vols. 8vo. 1046 p. 1792-6.

From the physical evils which Mr. G. has long had to endure, we had little reason to flatter ourselves with the hopes of his being able to employ his mind on literary labours; yet these essays may rank with the best of his performances, and in some respects exceed them. We cannot enlarge upon them without trespassing too much on our limits, but shall mention their subjects, that our readers may know in some degree what entertainment is to be expected from them. Vol. I. 1. On patience. 2. On fashion. 3. A commentary on the maxim of Rochefoucault: "the air of a citizen is sometimes rubbed off in the army, never at a court." 4. On indecision. Vol. II. 1. On the discourse of Solon to Cræsus, and that of Demaratus to Xerxes, in Herodotus. 2. Thoughts on the love of our country in general, and the partiality which the people of a great empire have for their own particular province. 3. Some observations on the art of thinking. 4. On the mad characters in Shakspeare's plays, and on that of Hamlet in particular. The last essay may be reckoned, with the masterly observations lately introduced by Goethe into his *Meisters Lehrjahre**, among the best things that have been written on the great dramatist. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

ART. XII. *Helmstadt and Leipzig.* Since the termination of Schlœzer's Political Magazine, *Staats-Anzeigen*, prof. Hæberlin has begun to publish another under the title of *Staats-Archiv*, which, we are informed, is a worthy successor to it.

EDUCATION.

ART. XIII. Halle and Leipzig. *Hausbedarf aus der alten Geschichte, &c.* The ancient History of the World, compiled for the Use of his own Children, and others from twelve to fifteen Years old, or upwards, by K. E. Mangelsdorff, Prof. of Hist. at Königsberg. 4 vols. 8vo. About 350 p. each. 1797.

Though we find in this work no new facts, yet many things are presented to us in a new light, and it will undoubtedly outlive many of its contemporaries. Notwithstanding it's being intended for children, many men, and men not unacquainted with history, will find it instructive. We hope the author will give us a similar sketch of modern history, from the reign of Theodosius, at which this terminates. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

* We have yet seen no review of this novel, but we hope we shall soon have an opportunity of giving our readers some account of it, as we understand it is translating into english.

FOR THE
ANALYTICAL REVIEW,
FOR APRIL, 1797.

A
RETROSPECT OF THE ACTIVE WORLD:

OR,

A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS,
AND PRACTICAL CONTROVERSIES, AND CONTESTS.

It is impossible for any mind, in the most advantageous circumstances, and with the most extensive powers, to know and comprehend all the discoveries, inventions, and practical controversies, and contests, that are going on, or have lately taken place in the cultivated world. The most curious and enlightened observer, possessing all the means of the most extensive information, must limit his attention to the most important of these: and, even among such as are of great and general importance*, he must select some circumstance or circumstances, forming somewhat of a specific nature, under which the mass or aggregate of inventions and discoveries may be contemplated: for, to enumerate the whole individually, and without any such bond of connection, would be tedious and disgusting; and incongruous with that air of generalization, which must naturally be expected to reign in a retrospect of this kind, subjoined, as a natural appendix, to a review of the speculative world. Something more we apprehend will be expected, and naturally expected, than a bare catalogue of patents for inventions, real or pretended. A classification of some sort: a review of them in their causes, in their consequences or effects, and under various other relations. As they are connected by their nature, their object, or their importance to human life; as they indicate the course of opinion, and of studies; or as they illustrate in any respect the present state of society. Man is an imitative and artful animal: some degree of art is inseparable from the very nature of man. It is by the nature and the degree of contrivance which he calls to his aid, that the different states and stages of society are determined.

* It must be confessed after all, that we cannot reduce our views on this subject to philosophical precision: as there is no standard whereby to judge of the comparative merit and importance of discoveries and inventions; as what may be very important to one class, or even nation of men, may be less so to others: and as all things are so linked together, and united in common principles, that one discovery, apparently trivial, may lead to others of the greatest consequence.

But

But the grand division of inventions is, into such as are important and such as are frivolous. Inventions, in proportion to their importance, are capable of classification: in proportion to their frivolity, difficult to be arranged under any general head, if not wholly anomalous. In this general retrospect, we shall not think it indispensable to mention such inventions as Mr. Cheston's method of making elastic spring buckles, or patents for elastic garters, or for breeches; or trifling improvements, if in any degree improvements, in machinery long known to the world; or, in short, what seems either doubtful, or, if undoubted, of little or no consequence: of which there is an immense proportion in the transactions, or registers, under other names, of what passes in various societies. There seems indeed, to be such an itch of appearing to the world in the light of inventors, as there is of becoming authors. The general principle however of emulation is good and profitable: and we must gladly accept the wheat and the chaff blended together.

A second division of inventions and discoveries is, into such as are of manifest and direct importance in life; and into such as are not indeed of any direct or immediate practical applicability, but which wear a strong air of plausibility, and relate to an important subject.

A third division is, into such as depend on mechanical principles; such as depend on chemical principles; and such discoveries as are made by accident, although the natural cause, or principle of their production remain a secret.

It is evident that there are innumerable other classes into which inventions and discoveries may be divided; but these general heads will suffice, for a general arrangement, as well as selection. Setting aside then all such inventions as seem frivolous, and of little or no consequence, our classification in this retrospect is confined to the following heads.

First, inventions of direct and immediate importance: 1. Mechanical, 2. Chemical, 3. Accidental.

Secondly, inventions of indirect and contingent importance: 1. Mechanical, 2. Chemical, 3. Accidental.

RECENT INVENTIONS OF DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE.

1. Mechanical. A rotatory motion produced from the action of an alternate movement, in any direction, effected by a steam engine*, or any other machine: the author, Mr. Burgess of Weymouth street, Portland-place. A machine for pumping vessels at sea, without the labour of men: the author, Mr. Richard Wells. A method of raising, removing, and delivering earth, water, stones, &c.: the author, Mr. Sparrow of Nottingham. It is to be wished, and may be expected, that this machine may be simplified in its construction. Nothing can be imagined of greater importance. A method of forming oak-trees into compass shapes, for the use of ship-builders: the author, Mr. W. Randall of Maidstone, Kent. Locks upon a new construction: by Mr. Joseph Bramah, of Piccadilly. A pump for raising

* This machine as often happens, is of a mixed nature, depending on both mechanical and chemical principles.

water in various situations, particularly on board ships: By Mr. Buchanan of the Isle of Bute. It appears, that this pump may be occasionally converted into an engine for extinguishing fire. Cast iron blocks, used in the construction of arches, in place of key stones: the author, Mr. Burdon of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, this is one of the finest efforts of mechanical invention. It exhibits a new principle of the construction of iron arches: the principle of the famous iron bridge thrown across the Wear near Sunderland. From the increasing population and trade of Sunderland and the two Wear-mouths, the ancient ferry, which was almost in the centre of the harbour, was become very insufficient and unsafe; in so much that frequent instances occurred of the loss of lives, beside constant delays, and disappointments in business. A stone bridge was proposed of 200 feet span, and 80 feet to the crown of the arch: but the plan and the estimate being referred to persons of skill, the extent of the expense appeared to be beyond all reasonable bounds; and, upon searching for foundations, none were to be found within the limits of the space covered by the tide, which flowed between rocky shores, distant from each other, in the narrowest part, about 240 feet. Another difficulty also arose from the situation being so near the mouth of the river, and perpetually occupied by the craft of the coal, lime, and other trades, which could not admit even a momentary interruption. In these circumstances, Mr. Burdon conceived the idea of making a bridge of iron; and of taking advantage of the ductility and lightness of that metal, to produce an arch at least fifteen times lighter than a corresponding arch of stone, and capable of being put together upon an ordinary scaffold, instead of an accurate centre, in an infinitely less space of time. This design was happily executed, and opened for the accommodation of the public, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, on august 9, 1796. The arch is a segment of a large circle; it's span is 236 feet; the height from low water to the spring of the arch is about 60 feet; and the versed sine 34; having 94 clear water, and abundant depth in the mid-stream. This bridge will be a permanent monument to the patriotism as well as genius of Mr. Burdon. It is worth a thousand declamations in parliament.

2. Chemical. A method for completely separating the beer from yeast, and preserving the yeast for a great length of time, and in any climate, by Mr. Felton Mathew, of Three-Cranes Wharf in the city of London, merchant. This discovery is of much importance to health, and comfort; especially in garrisons, and on board of ships in long voyages. A discovery of certain vegetable substances, in particular states of preparation, to be used in cleaning or bleaching printed, painted, or died cloth: the author, Mr. Grimshaw of Derbyshire. A cement for the purpose of preserving ships and vessels from worms, and for various purposes in agriculture and commerce: the author, Mr. Worth, in the county of Norfolk, chemist. Invention of a machine for making fresh water from sea water, or from brine-springs, without boiling, and for making salt from sea water or from brine-springs, with much less boiling than in the common way: the author, Mr. Bayley, of St. Martin's in the Fields, Middlesex. This is the simplest process yet discovered for the attainment of it's object; and, we doubt not, as effectual, at least, as any other.

3. Acci-

3. Accidental*. Among the most important of these, we reckon the discovery of a method, by Mr. Forsyth, the king's gardener at Kensington, for reviving and prolonging the life of trees, wounded mortally by injury done to the bark, and even after they have begun to suffer the decay of old age. This wonderful cure consists in a certain compost of loam, and cow dung, and some other ingredients†. The remedy is not equivocal or uncertain: but undoubted, and constant in it's salutary operation; as many venerable trees in Kensington gardens, and various parks, in different counties of England, fully testify. It is generally known, now, that trees and all vegetables derive by far the greater part of their nourishment, not from their roots, but the influences of the Heavens, collected by their leaves, and distributed by canals from them to the other parts of the system. The leaves and bark seem to be to the trees what the mouth, lungs, stomach, and other entrails are to animal bodies. The compost above mentioned, properly applied, heals and fills up wounds and decays in the bark of trees; and draws fresh bark over them, like new flesh and skin over the bare bone.—(When will physicians discover a mode equally effectual, for the prolongation of animal life?)—A new and simple method of extracting starch from horse chesnuts: by lord William Murray.—A process discovered by Mr. Baume, for giving a beautiful white colour to silk, without scouring.—A method discovered for making bread from rice alone: for an account of which, see the *Journal des Sciences, des Lettres, et des Arts*.

In our next number we shall give examples of recent discoveries and inventions of indirect and contingent importance.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THERE is nothing more common, than to observe, that the present period, and conjuncture of affairs, are the most critical and important, if not in history, or the history of our nation, yet the most critical and important in our times. Recent, and present, make a deeper impression than remote events‡. And well they may; being more closely connected with present passions, situations, and fortunes. But, making every allowance for this natural disposition to magnify present objects beyond their just proportion, we may affirm, without the least exaggeration, that the present month is one of the most critical and interest-

* Or such as were not discovered, a priori, by a knowledge of either chemical, or mechanical principles, nor yet by a course of experiments directed by hypothetical theories, but fallen on through some fortunate hint or circumstance, noticed and improved by sagacity.

† A particular account of this admirable discovery, published for the good of the public, will be found in the transactions of the SOCIETY OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES, and in our Review, vol. x, p. 183. This invention, though not recent, is recurred to in this case, because it is singularly calculated to illustrate the nature of those discoveries, that we have classified under the head of accidental.

‡ ‘Sed plerique mortales pleraque meminere.’

Jul. Cæsar. apud Sall. Bell. Catabrar:
ing.

ing, not only to us but to all the world, that was ever numbered in the history of any nation or empire: a military republic, triumphant where ever they carry their arms; neighbouring princes and states wearing their yoke, or the show of sovereign independence in fetters; and others in the lethargy of neutrality, gradually sinking into the same state of subjection: while the only two powers that remained firm in the general confederacy that had been formed against the infant commonwealth, are at last reduced to the necessity of suing for peace.—The victors of Italy, within thirty leagues of the austrian capital; the conquerors of the Netherlands, passed, or ready to pass the Rhine; the bank of Vienna staggering and endeavouring to prop it's credit, and protract it's fall, by methods similar to those that had been, a short time before, adopted, of necessity, by the bank of England; an insurrection in the North of Ireland; and a mutiny in the grand fleet at Portsmouth! These are the outlines of the picture, which, according to our monthly engagement, it becomes now our duty to lay before the public. It is sufficiently melancholy: yet, in taking a nearer view of the landscape, we shall find the gloom, here and there, brightened up by rays of hope. And, at the worst, when we reflect on the complexity and the magnitude of the french government and conquests, we shall have that consolation which the mutability of all human affairs is wont to afford to the unfortunate.—At the present moment, the affairs of

FRANCE

Bear the colour of good order, peace, and moderation, still farther and farther displayed in the present elections, at home: abroad, the splendour of victory and glory. The contributions levied on the conquered countries have maintained and paid the army for the whole of the campaign. Thirty millions have been sent to the treasury of the republic; the museum of Paris has been enriched with 300 subjects, master-pieces of art, of ancient and modern Italy. The colours of France have been planted on the adriatic shore, opposite and within 24 hours sail of the ancient Macedonia*. The vast depredations made by Buonaparte are totally forgotten by hundreds of unfortunates, even among the emigrés, who are objects of his generous bounty: thus Julius Cæsar, immersed in debt, as well as when master of the world, a plunderer in both situations, obtained the character of clement and munificent. Like Cæsar, Buonaparte is a profound scholar as well as philosopher†. Like Cæsar, too, he is a fine writer. His letter to the archduke Charles is a nobler monument of his fame than any one of his victories. It breathes the generosity of a gallant military chief, and at the same time the sublimest sentiments of morality. When time shall have settled the disputes, (as sooner or later it must) and

* A circumstance noticed by Buonaparte, both in his dispatches to the directory, and his address to the army. The association of ideas, by which he was led to this, has, very naturally, been a subject of various conjecture.

† Of this we are privately assured, from many different quarters, all of them commanding our entire confidence.

even extinguished the resentment of nations*, nay, and when the whole series of his victories, though never to be forgotten, shall pass, as a dream through the mind, such sentiments, recorded in the page of every historian of the present period, shall touch and engage every heart. The freezing of the rivers of the north; the drying up of those of the south; the death of the empress of Russia; the concurrence of two such monarchs as the present emperor of Russia and king of Prussia, on such important thrones, at such a critical time: all these, and other accidents, no doubt, contributed to the success of the republic. But the intrepidity, and the genius of Pichegru, Moreau, and Buonaparte: these advantages were not accidental. On the whole, in the present contest, now, according to every appearance, some way or other to be speedily determined, France has exhibited the advantage of one compacted power†, over a confederation of many; the triumph of liberty over tyranny‡; and the impotency of pecuniary wealth||, when opposed to genius and bravery. Of

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

We have not, in the course of the present month, learned any thing new. The former country still crouches under France: the latter still relies on Great Britain.

ITALY.

It is thought, that Buonaparte intends to add Mantua to one or other of his new republics. But on the eve of a negotiation for peace, it would be idle to recount and weigh all the rumours that prevail on such subjects.—Only we may observe, that this republicanizing humour of the french does not seem to be good policy, if their ruling passion be the love of power and predominancy among the nations. The romans made not the least scruple, in many cases, of continuing, or restoring, to the nations whom they conquered, their *reges* or *reguli* **. In others they appointed kings, whom they chose themselves, from the number of their own partizans. It is difficult to restrain and manage the turbulent ambition of democracies. It is easier to practise on one or two minds, as a king and his ministers, or mistresses; and even on aristocracies. The

VENETIAN Republic, renowned for it's wisdom, has proved, that extreme caution does not always lead to safety; and that, to incur a degree of hazard or danger, is not always imprudent. Had they

* Expressions in Buonaparte's letter to the archduke Charles.

† Compacted indeed, most foolishly, by the external aggression of it's enemies.

‡ Not that of Lewis XVI, who was not a tyrant, but over the french monarchy, and, above all, over the confederacy.

|| Contrasted with the physical resources which form the real and permanent WEALTH, as well as strength of a nation.

** *Kings*, and *petty kings*, or *chiefs*. The name *Arminius*, a german chief, mentioned by Tacitus, expressed his office. It signifies, in the german languages, at this day, a chief or HEAD-MAN. The german *here-man* is latinized into *Arminius*.

joined the confederacy, and remained firmly united with the emperor, they would have probably escaped, and certainly would not have been involved in greater evils than those that have overtaken them, and those with which they are still threatened.

GERMANY.

It appears to be the plan of Buonaparte to cut off the archduke's army from the Tyrolese, and from the Rhine. In Tyrol the archduke has lately gained a post of some importance: an advantage, if used with moderation as a step towards peace; if as an encouragement to war, (if peace can be obtained on any tolerable terms) a misfortune. An effort is made to make the hungarians rise in a mass. Will the attachment to a king and royal family prove as buoyant a principle as the love of liberty and a participation of sovereignty? There is a disposition in all men, princes the very last to be excepted, were there any exception, to fancy that they are more beloved and respected than they are.— Yet the hungarians have, on former occasions, saved the monarchy when on the brink of ruin—and it is possible that they may again do so. It would certainly be rash in Buonaparte to march to Vienna, leaving Hungary in arms behind him: therefore, it is probable, that he and the directory will listen to reasonable terms of peace, which the emperor, with his ally, is ready to accept: but determined, not more honourably than wisely, not to sheath the sword, if these should not be granted. The

NORTHERN POWERS,

PRUSSIA, DENMARK, SWEDEN, and RUSSIA, may yet atone for their conduct in abetting, or conniving at the subversion of the public law and balance of Europe, by vigorously interposing their mediation for such a peace as may preserve the independence of Germany, and of Europe.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The busy world has, in a great measure, recovered from the shock which the temporary interruption of payment wholly in species occasioned. If the state can make good their debt to the bank, of which we do not entertain any doubt, their credit may even be strengthened by this trial. At all events the credit of the bank must be the same with that of the nation. Guineas, that had been hidden from an apprehension of sudden evils, begin again to make their appearance. And there is a new coinage of gold at the mint, and of copper (a measure certainly very proper) at Birmingham. The mutiny at Portsmouth, now happily composed, is yet an interesting, and indeed an alarming object, whether we view it in its cause or possible consequences. It is the most emphatic proof that has yet been given to our nation of the influence of opinion, and the progress of popular claims and combinations. It is scarcely to be supposed, that the full authority of the officers, so necessary to the prompti-

promptitude of naval duty, will be soon restored. On the other hand, the systematic order and moderation of the sailors, and their cheerful return to obedience, their claims being granted, illustrate the mighty advantages of a free government, in which men can assume the manly mien of freedom, without abandoning themselves to the licentiousness and phrenzy of slaves, broken loose from bondage; and therefore, that there may be less danger in complying with the petitions for certain necessary reforms, than is, by some, apprehended.

Several petitions from corporations have been presented for a change of ministry. In others, petitions for that end have been moved, but rejected. The opposition expatiate on the misfortunes, errors, and blunders of the present war: the ministers, however, under all these disadvantages, seem to be as popular, shall we say? or not more unpopular than the opposition without them. The truth seems to be, that there is not any of the parties in whom we are disposed, at present, to place great confidence.

It is to be feared, that the French will now retain possession of the Netherlands; in which case, it may be necessary for Britain to grasp and retain a proportionable aggrandizement at sea.

On the southern promontories of AFRICA and INDIA, we must make our last stand for our rank among nations.